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The Beaver

CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

December 2009 | January 2010

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Editor's note

Golden moments

When it comes to the Olympics, each generation of Canadians has its "where were you when…?" moments.

For some, it's memories of Barbara Ann Scott's gutsy gold medal skate in 1948, or speed skater Gaetan Boucher's double gold in '84.

Sometimes the moments — such as sprinter Ben Johnson's positive test for doping at the 1988 Summer Olympics at Seoul, Korea — are ones we would all love to forget.

Much has changed since Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, proposed in 1894 that the world revive the ancient tradition of the Olympic Games. The Games have been transformed from sport into spectacle — commercialized, professionalized, and prepackaged. Only the richest nations can afford to host them. Sometimes, it almost can seem as if the actual athletics are secondary to the pizzazz of the opening and closing ceremonies.

MARIANNE HELM

And yet, every four years, we are still drawn to the Olympics, be it the Summer or Winter Games.

Who among us didn't root in 1988 for British ski jumper Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, the lovable underdog of the Calgary Games? Who didn't soar along with Nadia Comaneci as she recorded her perfect 10.0 scores in Montreal in 1976? And which Canadian didn't swell with pride when speed skater Cindy Klassen won five medals in 2006, becoming Canada's most decorated Olympian?

Why do we watch? We watch because, at its best, the Olympic story is the story of dedication, perseverance, and fair play. So of course, let's support our athletes as they seek to "Own the Podium" in Vancouver. But we should also remember that in the Olympics, how you compete ultimately matters more than where you finish in the medal count.

Mark Reid, Editor

Canadian Olympic athletes have won gold, especially in the Olympic Winter Games — but never at home. During the Vancouver-Whistler Games in 2010, Canadian Winter Olympians and Paralympians will build on the magnificent record of our existing Olympic heroes and will themselves become part of Canadian history. Let's cheer them on. If they perform at the levels they expect, Canadian athletes may win more medals than those from any country at the Games.

This special issue shares some of the extraordinary stories and events that make the Olympics unique and Canada's role in them so important.

Canadian athletes have made us proud: Figure skaters Barbara Ann Scott, Don Jackson, Paul and Wagner, the Jelineks, Toller Cranston, Elizabeth Manley, Brian Orser, Salé and Pelletier, Bourne and Krantz — all triumphed on the ice. Speed skaters Gaetan Boucher, Marc Gagnon, Clara Hughes, Catriona LeMay Doan, Cindy Klassen, and our chef de mission, Nathalie Lambert, excelled on the track. Anne Heggtveit, Nancy Greene, Karen Lee Gartner, Beckie Scott, and the Crazy Canucks took on the alpine world. No nation has matched the Canadian double gold in ice hockey at Salt Lake City in 2002. These are some among many who have proudly represented Canada.

There are few occasions in life when we know for sure that we are watching history being made. The Olympics are history in the making.

Richard W. Pound, Guest Editor

The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

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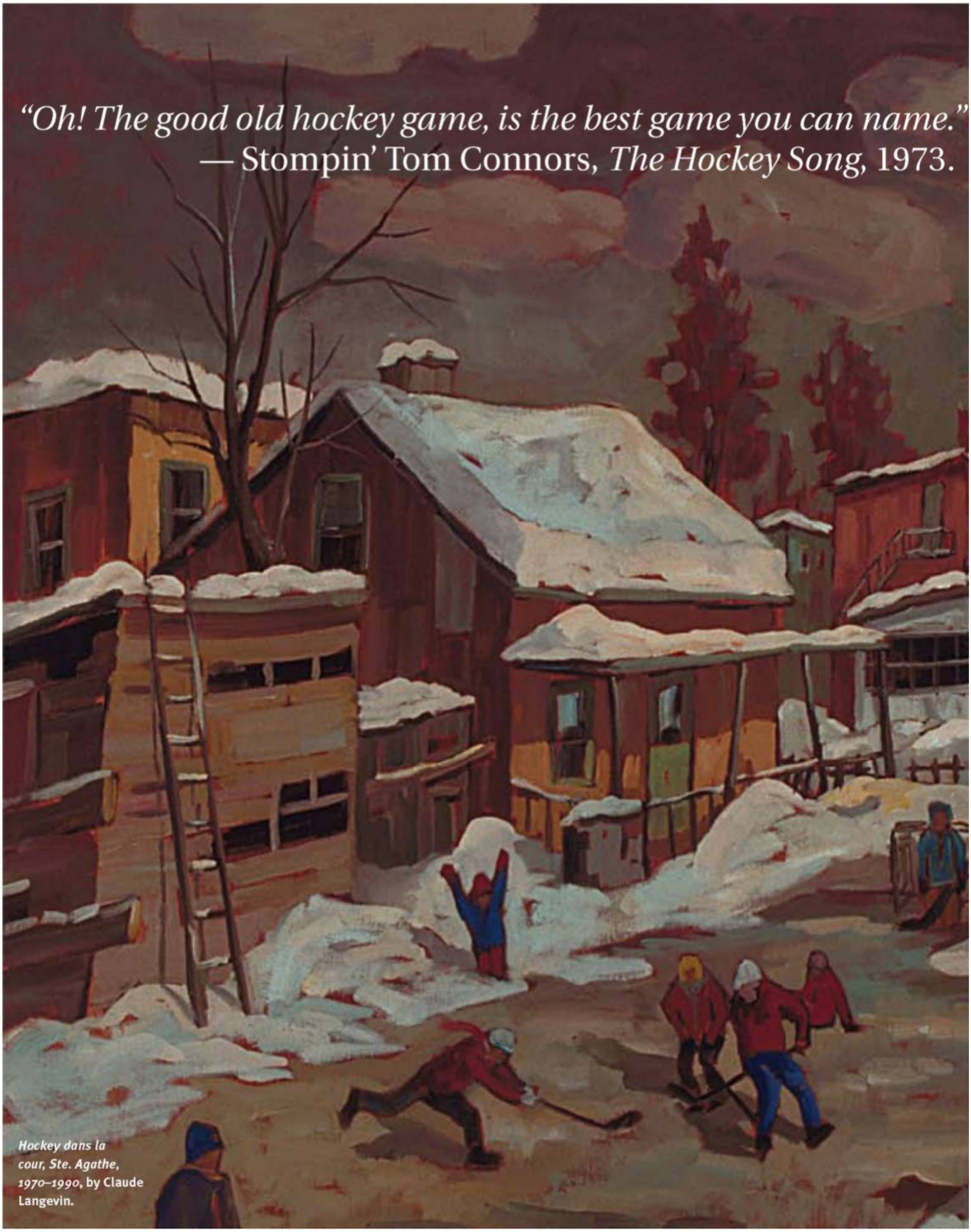

"Oh! The good old hockey game, is the best game you can name."
— Stompin' Tom Connors, *The Hockey Song*, 1973.

***Hockey dans la cour, Ste. Agathe, 1970–1990*, by Claude Langevin.**

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Letters

The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE
RESCUE!
Canadian spies outfox the NAZIS to save Allied airmen.

Sew surprising

I enjoyed your editorial on selling sacrifice in the October/November 2009 issue of *The Beaver.* I thought of an incident that occurred to me concerning a Victoria Cross several years ago.

While dropping off one of our daughters at a friend's home one night, I spoke with her mother, who was sewing while her daughter Marcia was getting dressed. The girls were both teenagers at the time.

As I glanced down, I looked in her sewing basket and there was a Victoria Cross. It was so tarnished and small and plain. It turns out that our daughter's friend's great-grandfather had left it to her. It was amazing for me to hold it and to hear the story behind it!

WILLIAM D. BRYMER, D.D.S.
VANCOUVER

Photographic memory

While reading Mark Reid's informative article "Valour Sold" [October/November 2009], I came across the portrait of Jim Bear, a relation of Tommy Prince. Well, didn't I just do a double take. It is an image I had taken on November 8, 1999, as a photojournalist for the *Winnipeg Free Press.* The photo was credited to the Canadian Press.

During my career as a photographer for both the *Winnipeg Tribune* and the *Free Press*, photographing events was just not supplying images to run in the following day's paper.

To me, it was recording a historical event that would be deemed more valuable as time progressed.

A photographer would hope his contribution would not be forgotten and that his name was bonded to the image.

I'm sure you have come across many old or archived photographs, most without credit, and wonder about their creators.

My point is that you, a publication devoted to accuracy in history, should go out of its way to give credit where credit is due. Just as Jim Bear stood proudly for his portrait, I was proud to have taken it.

JEFF DE BOOY, NIGHT PHOTO EDITOR
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Editor's note: The Beaver *agrees with Mr. de Booy about the great debt we all owe news photographers and regrets the omission.*

Show some medal!

I enjoyed reading the article about selling and buying VC medals.

At the end of the article, Mark Reid writes that the Shankland medals are safely stored in the Canadian War Museum. So the medals were bought, remain in Canada — and what now?

The War Museum apparently has dozens of VC medals stored away safely. I imagine, depending on what theme is shown, one or more come out of the safe for display.

My question is whether or not all of them should be displayed all year. Perhaps we should encourage a little hero worship and tap in to the passion by displaying all the VC medals.

Last year, two VC medals earned by former citizens were displayed at my local museum.

It was their most popular display that year. Neither medal came from the War Museum. They were borrowed from the heroes' regimental museums.

BEN KOOTER
VANWELL PUBLISHING LIMITED
VIA EMAIL

Cross clarification

I first read *The Beaver* about a year ago after seeing it at my local bookstore. I have been a faithful reader ever since, not missing an issue. In the article "Valour Sold" it states that Ernest "Smokey" Smith was the last Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Another Canadian, Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray, while flying with the Royal Navy, attacked and sank a Japanese destroyer off the coast of Honshu.

This action took place on August 9, 1945 — a few days before Japan surrendered, ending WWII.

Wouldn't this make him the last Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross?

DAVID CHWALA
DEPEW, N.Y.

Editor's note: Mr. Chwala is correct — Mr. Smith was the last surviving Canadian Victoria Cross winner, not the last to win the medal.

Monty's the man

I am puzzled by letter writer Gord Young's comments about Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery being tried as a war criminal and implying that he got "thousands of men killed for jealousies and wounded egos."

I have read a great deal about Montgomery and it would be unfair to accuse Montgomery of wasting lives for his own ego.

He undoubtedly had a large ego, as well as a complex and unlikeable personality that frequently got him into trouble with his superiors, and later his American allies. However, he was a very professional general in all other respects. He was obsessed with improving the efficiency, training, and professional conduct of those he commanded, and thereby reduced casualties. He expected high standards from his officers and drove them hard to be physically fit, efficient, and proficient in the business of soldiering. He was disdainful of officers who, when issued orders, questioned them and treated them as an excuse to carry on a debate rather than carry them out. "Bellyaching" he termed it and was determined to end it.

He dismissed as "useless" officers who didn't exhibit the qualities he tried to instill, and replaced them with others who were more capable.

His men loved him because he was visible to them and spoke to them directly about their roles in upcoming battles — unlike other generals, who kept the soldiers in the dark. He was far more concerned about their welfare and fighting morale than military spit and polish.

They called him "Monty" with affection. Most officers called him a breath of fresh air who instilled a high level of professionalism and pride in themselves and the army.

KEN DAVIS
UNIONVILLE, ONTARIO

Review reviewed

One wonders what cup of gall Heather Robertson took when she wrote in review of J.M. Bumsted's Lord *Selkirk*: A Life, [June/July 2009]. Of Selkirk she writes: "dilettante"; "pigheaded"; "exasperating"; "castigated"; "inarticulate"; "wasted his time in ... the House of Lords"; "swashbuckler"; "sneering attitude"; "corporate buccaneer."

Selkirk lived in questing times and wrote credibly of the hopelessness of Highland crofters' lives and tried to mitigate their suffering.

His colonists heralded a huge transformation in the Indian Territory: by proving the fertility of the West; by highlighting the advisability for the amalgamation of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company; and by example with probity, discipline, and credibility.

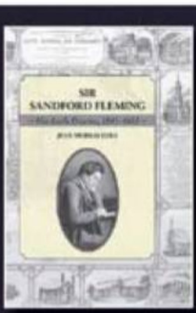
In contrast, I found the book a good read, which again displayed the rapine fostered by the [North West Company] agents, the hapless futility of the Coltman Commission, and the want of justice in the eastern courts dominated by the contaminated Family Compacts.

Tumultuous times in a young Canada!

R.A. SUTHERLAND, M.D.
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Clarification: It was the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, based in Winnipeg, and not the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, that took part in the Dieppe raid in August 1942. Incorrect information appeared in the August/September 2009 Beaver *feature "Disaster at Dieppe." We regret the error.*

***The Beaver* welcomes readers' comments.** E-mail us at editors@historysociety.ca or write to *The Beaver*, PO Box 56060, Portage Place RPO, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0G9 Canada. Please include your address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity or length.



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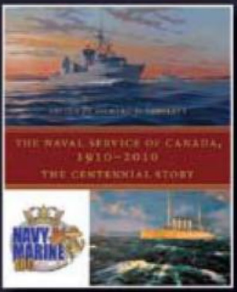

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SHIPWRECKS!

DETAIL FROM BILKING THE TOLL, CORNELIUS KRIEGHOFF, [illegible] MCCORD MUSEUM

Picture perfect

Vancouver film restoration wins two history awards.

The camera moves along a quiet residential street, offering a silent black-and-white glimpse of a long-lost age.

Over a six-minute span, you also see grainy images of wooden sidewalks lining dirt roads, men on bicycles, and pedestrians strolling in and out of shops, looking for bargains. It's just a typical day in Vancouver — circa 1907, that is.

The fantastic footage is the centrepiece of a new documentary that has captured both the City of Vancouver Heritage Award of Honour and an Award of Merit from the British Columbia Historical Federation.

"We were very happy to receive the award," says Jim McGraw, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society who doubled as the main narrator of the documentary *City Reflections: 1907 Vancouver 2007*. "However, the greatest satisfaction comes in contributing a little to the knowledge of Vancouver's past."

The original six-minute film was shot by American filmmaker William Harbeck, who found fame filming the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, only to die in 1912 during the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Harbeck was hired by another American filmmaker and inventor, George C. Hale, to film street scenes in Vancouver and Victoria.

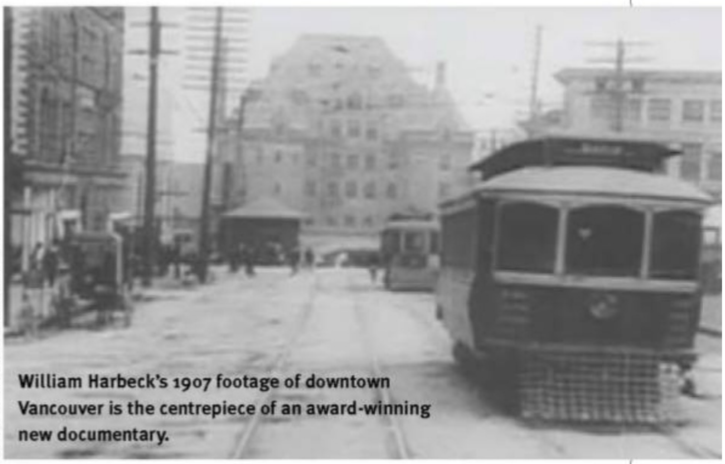
Hale had invented a device that was the IMAX of its day — a theatre shaped like a streetcar, with a screen at one end to display street scenes from around the world. Viewers bought tickets from a "conductor." The footage shot from moving streetcars created the illusion of movement. Combined with a device placed under the theatre's seats that emitted creaking and groaning sounds, the overall experience dazzled early moviegoers.

"You have got to remember that in those days, just to see motion on film was really unbelievable for people," says McGraw.

Harbeck's Vancouver footage was discovered in the 1980s in the estate of an Australian movie buff. Researchers realized it showed a North American city and sent it to Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, where staff recognized downtown Vancouver and set to work restoring the footage.

"It took them several years to put it back together," McGraw says. "It was in terrible shape — nitrate film on explosive stock. They couldn't run it on the projector as it was, or it would literally disintegrate."

In 1996, the newly restored film debuted in Vancouver. That screening inspired members of the Vancouver Historical Society to recreate scenes of the original film in order to illustrate how much Vancouver has changed over the past century.



William Harbeck's 1907 footage of downtown Vancouver is the centrepiece of an award-winning new documentary.

COURTESY VANCOUVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After several years of fundraising and preparation, filming began in 2007. Scenes were shot from moving vehicles to mimic the movement shown in the original. Narrators and historians added comments and context to the new fifty-three-minute documentary.

Its debut in May 2008 exceeded all expectations.

"There was a lineup … that stretched right out of the museum. We were flabbergasted," McGraw said.

The original pressing of two thousand DVDs has sold out and McGraw says more will likely be produced to meet the public's demand. "Everyone is in awe of being able to see Vancouver as it was in 1907," he says. — **Mark Reid**

TAKE THE DAY OFF

19 36
BERLIN

December 5

To mark the day in 1935 when police were called to a protest at Toronto's Royal York Hotel against meetings held there to boost Canadian participation in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Fight the good fight.

Currents

Our home & native ...

Instant replay

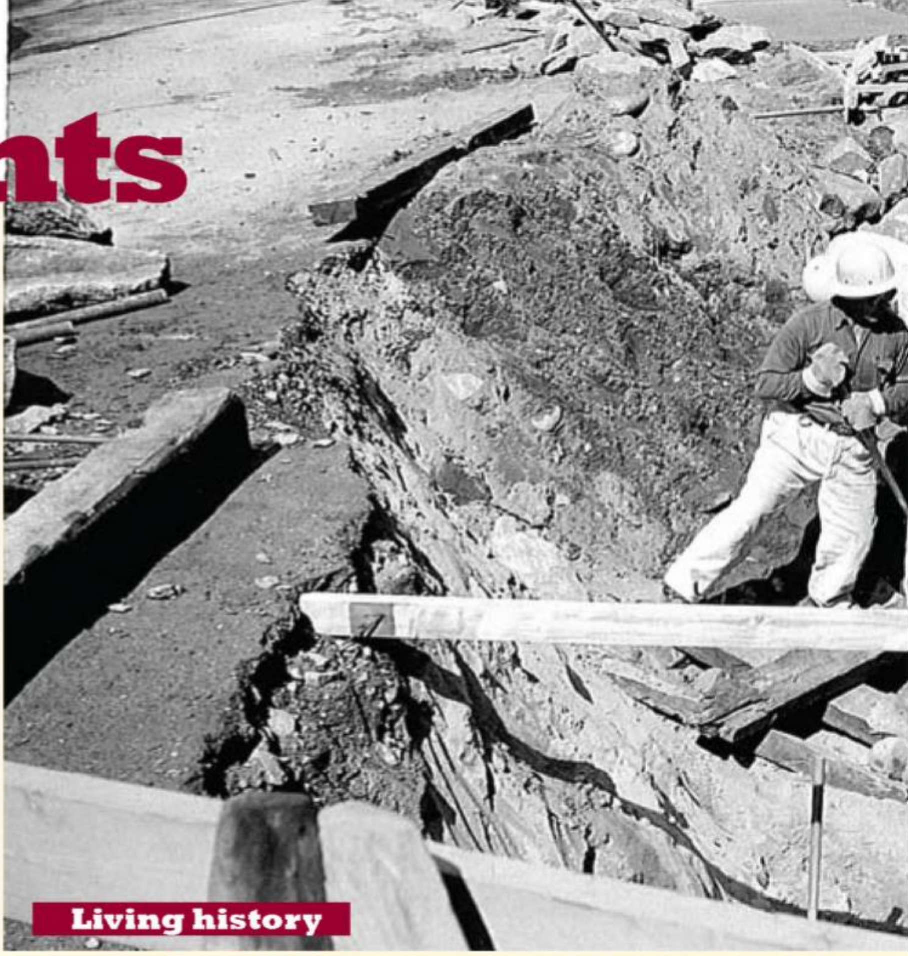
We didn't catch that — play it again ... and again ... give us an "instant replay!"

A technology that most sports fans now take for granted, instant replay was first invented in the mid-1950s by George Retzlaff, who worked at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation when television was in its infancy and full of experimentation. In 1953, the German-born Winnipegger was promoted to head of CBC Sports and producer/director of *Hockey Night in Canada.*

During the 1955–56 NHL season, Retzlaff used a "hot processor" that could develop film footage within thirty seconds, allowing almost instant replays. But he was only able to use his new technique for one Toronto-based telecast.

The new method did not conform to a network requirement that hockey programs had to look the same whether telecast from Toronto or Montreal. As well, the network's advertising agency was annoyed that Retzlaff had failed to provide advance notice so that it could promote the innovation.

With the advent of videotape in the mid-1960s, instant replay became commonplace, allowing both television viewers and sports officials to see different angles and review plays and rulings. Almost every sport that is televised today uses some form of George Retzlaff's instant replay. —**Beverley Tallon**



Living history

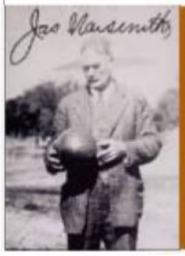
Rock wall entu

Residents honour the stones that hold their city together.

Eileen Pederson was born and grew up in Trail, British Columbia, but she didn't think a lot about the city's many stone walls — until a visiting friend commented on how amazing they were. "Immediately, I woke up," she says. "I began to notice rock walls everywhere."

Since then, Pederson has dedicated years of effort to documenting the walls, acting for their preservation, and ensuring recognition for the dozens of labourers whose work over several decades left the city a unique heritage.

In 2003, she set about photographing the walls running along layers of terraced streets parallel to the Columbia River. Then, with other community members, she established the Rock Wall Project Entusiastico Society — its name is in part a nod to the Italian heritage of many of the walls' builders. And most recently, Pederson authored the book *Set in Stone: A History of Trail's Rock Walls,* which is beautifully illustrated with her own full-colour photos as well as maps, paintings, and historic black-and-white images.

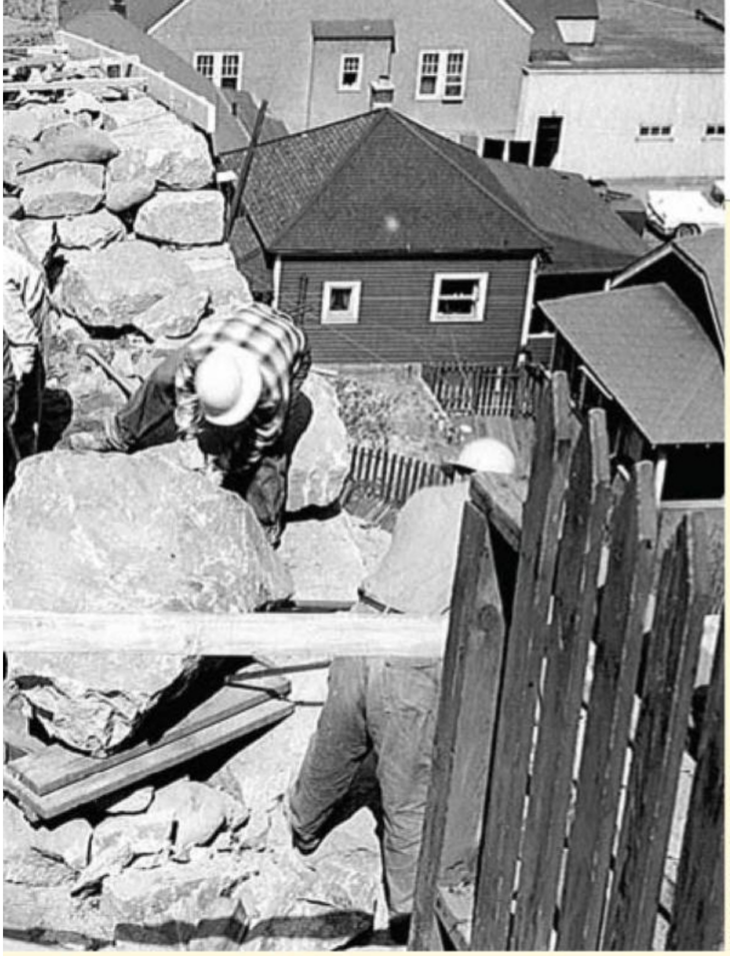


December 21

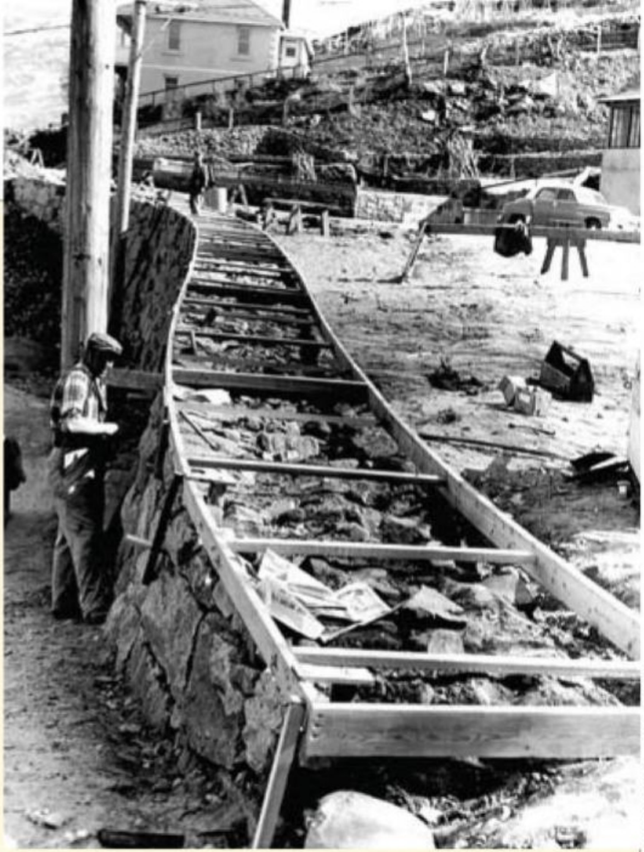
To honour the day in 1891 when Canadian James Naismith pioneered the game of basketball at the YMCA school in Springfield, Massachusetts. High-five your tall friends.

December 31

To note the day in 1950 that wrestler, boxer, football player, and hockey player Lionel Conacher was named Canada's athlete of the half century. Be a good sport.



COURTESY TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



COURTESY TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Left, stonemasons working in 1959 muscle a huge boulder into place with crowbars and planks while building one of Trail, B.C.'s many rock walls. Above, Memo Cappelletto prepares a stone sidewalk and wall in 1960.

siasticos

Trail is situated 150 kilometres southwest of Kelowna and ten kilometres north of the U.S. border in the midst of the Selkirk and Monashee mountain ranges. It has been a centre for mining and smelting since the 1890s and, like other resource towns, it has experienced the ebb and flow of economic activity. It also received large waves of immigration between the wars and again in the 1950s.

The many rock walls in Trail are a direct result of the city's topography — the need to shore up often steep roads and paths, while allowing for good drainage — as well as the region's access to quarried stone. But they also reflect the skills of the stonemasons who lived there.

Pederson says the impetus for the book was not just the pictures — "it had to be about the lives of these men and their families."

The backbreaking work of building walls was performed mostly in winter and spring by workers such as Frank Balkovec, who learned stonemasonry in Trail, and Italian-born Guglielmo Di Domenico, now in his nineties and one of only two of the stonemasons still alive.

"We want to acknowledge just how much they contributed to the development of this community," says former resident Gabriella Moro, who came to Trail from Italy with her family in 1952.

In 2005, the society honoured the builders with a celebration in front of the impressive Railway Lane rock wall, which is more than 200 metres long and includes pieces weighing over 500 kilograms. Trail resident Herbert Green called it "a huge granite jigsaw puzzle that had been solved by the minds and hands of the artisans who erected it."

Besides the book *Set in Stone*, which received an award from the B.C. Historical Federation and is now on its second printing, the Rock Wall Society has published brochures outlining ten walking tours. Its ongoing work includes efforts to protect walls under threat from nature or from development.

To see more photos or to contact the Rock Wall Project Entusiastico Society, visit TheBeaver.ca. — **Phil Koch**

CANADA

January 4

To observe the day in 1970 when Canada withdrew from international hockey and the world championship set for Winnipeg and Montreal over rules barring professional players. Save your best for later.

January 31

To celebrate the day in 1920 when Joe Malone established the NHL record for most goals in a single game, scoring seven times in the Quebec Bulldogs' 10-7 win over Toronto. Set the record straight.

Defining the gold standard

No matter how many medals Canadian athletes claim at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, the country has already garnered the ultimate medal haul. The Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto is playing host to the world's only complete collection of Olympic medals until January 15, 2010.

The display includes each of the 137 different medal designs awarded since the modern Olympic Games began in 1896 and marks the collection's first exhibition outside its home at The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

At the first modern Olympic Games, only two medals were awarded in each event — a silver medal and a crown of olive branches went to the winner, while the runner-up received a bronze medal and a crown of laurel.

Medals for the Summer Games generally depict Nike, the goddess of victory, as well as something unique to the host city or country. However, the designs for Winter Games medals have varied greatly. For the Vancouver Games — not represented in the exhibition — each medal is unique, showing a small piece of a larger West Coast aboriginal design.

The last time Olympic champions received medals made entirely of gold was at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm.

THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM

Todd Nicholson, right, and teammate Raymond Grass celebrate after winning the gold medal at the Turin 2006 Winter Paralympic Games.

CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

Paralympic Winter Games

The Paralympic Winter Games are a multi-sport event governed by the International Paralympic Committee. A venue for elite athletes with physical and visual disabilities, the Paralympics are not to be confused with the Special Olympics, which are for people with intellectual disabilities. Like the Summer Paralympics, the Winter Paralympics are held every four years immediately after the Olympic Games.

5 The number of sports on the current Paralympic Winter Games program: alpine skiing, sledge hockey, cross-country skiing, biathlon, and wheelchair curling.

12 The number of countries that participated in two sports at the first Paralympic Winter Games, held in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, in 1976.

650 The number of athletes from over forty countries expected to participate in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

4 The number of medals — two gold and two bronze — awarded to Canadian athletes at the first Paralympic Winter Games.

27 The most medals ever won by an athlete at the Paralympic Winter Games. The medals, including twenty-two gold, were awarded to Ragnhild Myklebust of Norway over five Paralympic Games.

5 Categories of disability used by both the Winter and Summer Paralympics to determine which athletes are eligible to participate. The categories are visual impairment, amputation, spinal injury, cerebral palsy, and les autres (others).

2 The number of Canadian coins circulated to honour 2010 Paralympic winter sports, one featuring wheelchair curling and another depicting sledge hockey.

A track star dad

Tim Hurley learns of his father's World War II athletic prowess.

My father, Sergeant Ron Hurley, was inducted into the Canadian Forces Sports Hall of Fame for track and field in 1988. He served with the Royal Westminster Regiment from 1939 to 1945 and saw action in Italy in 1944. I was reasonably familiar with his service in Italy but less familiar with his exploits as a track and field star.

As I scrolled down the names of the Hall of Fame inductees, I was amazed at the elite company of men and women with whom my father was associated.

Ron Hurley grew up in the Okanagan Valley of B.C. during the Depression. Too poor to afford proper training shoes, his Penticton high school coaches bought him his first pair. Once, my father and his sister Joan, a track star in her own right, walked twenty-eight miles to the town of Oliver for a July 1 holiday track meet. Running must have been in their genes, as their father, William Allan Hurley, was a frontline trench runner during World War I.

During his school years, my father was such a dedicated runner that his mother thought there was something wrong with him. He would go up and down the sandy beach along Okanagan Lake, sometimes barefoot, sometimes in heavy boots. For a cool-down, he would jump in the lake, for he was also a powerful swimmer.

In 1939, my father enlisted with the Royal Westminster Regiment. During training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, he met his running mate and fellow competitor Gino Bortolussi (also a Hall of Fame member). Over the next few years they were an awesome duo — the newspapers referred to them as "Flash" Hurley and "Iron Man" Bortolussi.

The regiment was sent to Camp Borden just outside Toronto in May 1941. It was at this enormous, ten-thousand-troop military camp that my father met civilian athletic trainer Norman Long. His expertise took my father's and Bortolussi's track and field efforts to a new level.

At the Dominion Day meet finals in 1941, my father won the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard race, and the long jump. Bortolussi, and my father, were also part of the winning shuttle relay team. These impressive accomplishments quickly put them under the care of expert athletic trainers from the military.

Ron Hurley competes in the long jump at the Aldershot camp, Hampshire, England, in 1942.

COURTESY RON HURLEY

In three months of competing in track and field, my father set two camp track records and won twenty-five prizes, including the grand aggregate cup for the best all round athlete. What is most amazing is that he often ran these races in canvas sneakers on slow cinder tracks.

In November 1941, the regiment was sent overseas to England's Camp Aldershot.

There my father ran in some world-class stadiums on crushed brick tracks. One event held at White City Stadium in London (built for the 1908 Olympics) on August 2, 1943, featured athletes from armed forces from around the world.

On November 15, 1943, the Westminster Regiment embarked for Algiers on a troop ship. My father and Bortolussi were not with them because it was felt that they had not completed all of their training. My father felt betrayed and angry, as the only reason they had been absent from training was to compete. It wasn't until March 1944 that my father caught up with the regiment again.

On numerous occasions my father's athletic ability helped him in combat. In April 1944 on International Ridge, overlooking the Liri Valley, Italy, my father ran two and a half miles back to headquarters, with the sound of incoming mortar rounds whistling in his ears, and in full view of the enemy, in order to carry out instructions to "go back and get the major."

My father participated in only two more meets after the spring of 1944 — the Canadian Forces Sports Day, capturing gold in the 220 yards and the 440-yard relay, and the Allied Track and Field Championships held in Rome on July 15, 1944. He and Bortolussi didn't qualify for any finals and soon returned to the regiment.

My father was seriously injured on December 14, 1944, with gunshot wounds to the chest and stomach. After repeated surgeries, he recovered sufficiently, returned to civilian life, married our remarkable, loving mother, Ruth, and helped raise five sons.

He remained active in track and field for over thirty-five years, especially with the Royal Canadian Legion, and became an accredited track official, officiating at Canada Games and B.C. Games. Throughout his life, he thrilled me with stories about his wartime adventures.

Tim Hurley is a retired teacher living in Williams Lake, British Columbia. His father, Ron Hurley, passed away on June 2, 2009. You can read more about Sergeant Hurley's wartime heroism in *The Liri Valley* by Mark Zuehlke.

HOCKEY'S RED DAWN

YEARS OF OLYMPIC GOLD CONVINCED CANADIANS THAT HOCKEY WAS 'OUR GAME.' WERE WE WRONG.

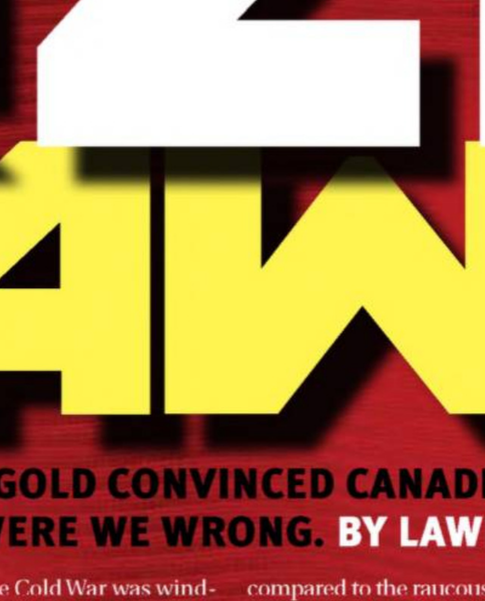
BY LAWRENCE MARTIN

In the mid-1980s, when the Cold War was winding down and I was Moscow correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*, I often set aside politics to focus on Soviet hockey. I'd lay down a few rubles for a ticket, head out to Luzhniki arena, and sit among the thick-coated, boozed-up Russians, taking notes.

Occasionally, Canadian teams played in Moscow — at the Izvestia Cup every December, for example.

But the Soviet league games, which few Canadians saw, intrigued me more.

The atmosphere was subdued compared to the raucousness of NHL arenas. Under the police state gaze, the players moved in orchestrated patterns. It was as if their game was prepared in the laboratory — a science as much as a sport.



TORONTO STAR

The USSR's dominance began in 1954, when it defeated Canada 7-2 in the world championship. In this photo, Canada's Earl Clements (11) falls in front of Soviet player Viktor Shuvalov.

After a couple of years attending the games, a Soviet apparatchik approached me with some news. I was being issued press credentials for the Soviet league. "You're the first Westerner to get them," he said.

How could that be?

By that time, Soviet hockey had been big news in Canada for three decades. Yet we hadn't bothered to have our journalists cover it. Nor, with the odd exception, had our hockey authorities sent scouts, coaches, and observers to learn what they were doing.

Access inside the Iron Curtain had been limited, of course, but it was no excuse. We'd been complacent, cocky, and too immersed in the notion — given our early history of repeated international conquests — that we were superior and that the sport would remain our own. We hadn't clued in to the rise of the red robots, and we had paid a steep price.

Starting with the embarrassing loss to the Soviets at the 1954 world championships, and continuing through the 1960s and '70s, Canadians ate plenty of humble pie, served up Soviet-style. A moment that typified it all for me came one night when I arrived at Luzhniki to cover a Canada-USSR game in the Izvestia tournament. As a Soviet official examined my credentials, he suddenly laughed. In a voice heavy with sarcasm, he boomed, "Da Da, Can-a-da!" He knew we were about to get creamed — and he was right.

Members of the Red Army team in 1948.

FIZKULTURI SPORT

Hockey, as we should have known, was a great fit for Russians. Why wouldn't they excel at it? They had been playing some form of hockey, be it bandy or whatever, since the late 1800s — for about as long as Canada had. Their population was many times our own. Their climatic conditions were similar and we knew about their command structure, how everything was regimented in a collective way, how everyone had to fall into line.

It might have been the image of the country's poverty that misled us. There was truth to that. In the entire Soviet Union, for example, there were no indoor hockey rinks until the Luzhniki Arena opened in 1956. This meant that during the warm months the players could only do dryland training. Sometimes teams travelled to far off Novosibirsk, in Siberia, where the ice was in place longer. League games were played in the big soccer stadiums, sometimes before crowds of thirty thousand and more. The boards surrounding the rinks were only about a foot high — this perhaps explaining their less-than-robust play along the boards when they graduated to real arenas. For headgear, players wore cyclists' or boxers' helmets, with padding coming right around their cheeks.

The Soviets started playing Western-style hockey in 1946, when a twelve-team league was formed. Many of the players came from elite soccer clubs and brought the geometry of soccer to the big ice surfaces.

Early in the 1950s, the Soviet Union decided to start playing against outside competition. Vasily Stalin, the son of Kremlin dictator Josef Stalin, had control over sports operations, including hockey. That meant the emphasis on winning was paramount. The Soviet dictator saw any losses on the international stage as a disgrace to the motherland. For international championships, the Soviets weren't about to send inferior squads. That was left for others to do, Canada being a prime example.

In 1952, Canada, represented by the Edmonton Mercurys, won the Olympic gold medal at the Games in Oslo. It was no big deal. We were used to doing that in those times. It was expected that the victories would continue. No one could possibly have imagined that it would be a half century—Salt Lake City in 2002—until we won another Olympic gold medal.

The Soviet debut at the world championships came in February 1954 in Stockholm, when the Cold War was in full, ugly throttle, when hockey was seen not just as a test of sport but as a test of political systems. Canada had won almost all previous world championships. The country's hockey establishment thought it could send a low-grade amateur team and that, as in the past, all would be well.

So we sent the East York Lyndhursts, a senior B outfit supplemented with some players from other clubs. No professionals were allowed to play, but we could at least have sent our best amateurs.

On an exhibition tour through Europe, the Lyndhursts handled all opponents easily. The tournament in Stockholm began the same way. Against the hometown Swedes, Canada won 8-0. (The USSR-Sweden game ended in a tie).

Finally, it was time to take on the Soviets. Played on warm temperatures on an outdoor rink, the game would prove to be the first of the many stunners to come. Our lowly Lyndhursts, not used to being outskated and outpassed, didn't know what hit them. Wave after red wave of attackers with huge CCCPs on their sweaters stormed our gates. The Canadian netminder, Don Lockhart, seemed unsettled and let in two soft goals to begin the match. The Soviet star, Vsevolod Bobrov, then disabled him with a majestic feint and it was 3-0.

Bobrov was about the only player on the Soviet side the Canadians had heard of.

In the Soviet Union he was the star of stars — in both hockey and soccer. He had an extremely upright stick so as to carry the puck close to him. His timing and vision were extraordinary, Gretzky-like, and he would slow play down when he got the puck before making his deft moves. The Canadians had planned to level him with bodychecks, and did so, slowing him down a bit. But the Soviets had other superior players.

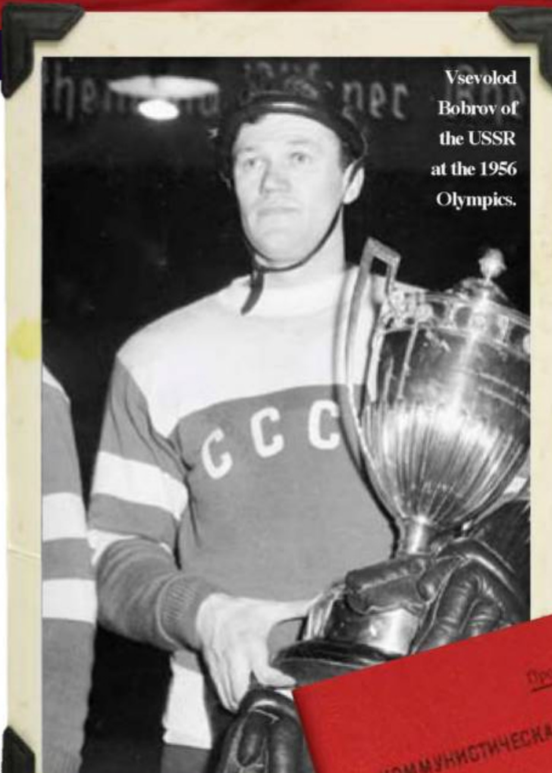
"Their slowest skater was faster than our fastest skater," recalled the Canadian forward Eric Unger. The Soviets led 4-0 after the first period and the rout was on. The final score was not to be believed: USSR 7, Canada 2.

Dozens of Communist officials in black coats rushed onto the ice to kiss the players. A flag was hoisted with the hammer and sickle on it. Canadian players stood shamefaced at the blue line. It began to pour rain. Some of them remembered it as the worst moment of their lives.

Lionel Conacher, a Canadian sports star in hockey and football and then a Liberal MP, called the Soviet victory a catastrophe for Canadian hockey.

"Canadian youngsters are brought up to believe that we have the best hockey players in the world. Now they know only that the Russians beat us."

In those 1954 world championships, the Soviets put Canadian hockey on notice. But the year after, Canada, represented by the Penticton Vees, won back the world championship, defeating the Soviets 5-0. This led some to believe that the Soviet win the year before might well have been a fluke. The Olympics the following year would disabuse them of that notion.



Vsevolod Bobrov of the USSR at the 1956 Olympics.

NAC/PA-093953

The Olympics at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, were the first in history to feature the participation of the Soviet Union. As the games began in the little village tucked in the Italian Alps, Canada's best gold-medal hope, as usual, was in hockey. Representing Canada was another club team, the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen.

By this time the final Soviet stars were getting older. Bobrov was thirty-three and other leading players were in their thirties. But they were still fast and they had improved their defence, so much that in the final five-game championship round the Soviets notched no less than three shutouts.

In the Soviet-Canada game, the Russians controlled the tempo. The Dutchmen played a strong first period, but the Soviets' superior physical conditioning became apparent as they increasingly beat the Canadians to the puck. They had learned to cope with the bodychecking the Canadians had used so effectively against them in the 1955 world championships. Their goaltending had also improved. Canada didn't score a single goal. Final score: Soviets 2, Canada 0. The gold went to the Soviets and Canada was disgraced again.

Milt Dunnel of the *Toronto Star* wrote that there was no prettier sight than seeing those Commies pass the puck around so precisely. He marvelled at their speed. They would spot the Dutchmen a couple of strides "and then overhaul them between the blue lines."

Said Canadian coach Bobby Bauer: "The sheer passing skill of the Russians, their ability to execute every defensive phase of the game, were things we had not experienced before."

The coach didn't fault his team. It wasn't as if his players had failed to execute. "When you play your best game and still lose, what is there to say?"

Not much — except, as he added, the following: "No

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Фамилия

Имя

Отчество

ЦК К

longer will Canada be able to send any one club and expect to beat Russia unless it is an NHL team."

Years down the line, Bauer would learn that sometimes even our NHL clubs wouldn't be good enough. But at the time, after those Olympics, his message was right. Unfortunately, it went unheeded. While there was much hand-wringing back in Canada after those games, and plenty of talk about never again taking Canadian hockey superiority for granted, the interest in what the Soviets were doing soon began to fade.

Canadians remained content to let their game evolve on natural ability, of which there was plenty. Trouble was, the Soviets also had natural ability. But they enhanced it with geometric systems of playing hockey and brutal training regimes, which required the complete, year-round absorption of their players.

In Moscow, the hockey scientist was Anatole Tarasov. A veteran of the air force team, he developed into a renowned strategist who emphasized athleticism, perfect physical conditioning, and, in keeping with the nature of Soviet society, a collectivist style of play.

In a collectivist style, the puck carrier was the servant of the other players. Tarasov's clubs played in units of five, as opposed to alternating forward units and defensive pairings. He kept detailed statistics. They showed that in games against Canada back then, his players passed the puck twice as many times as ours. Canadians often derided the Russians for playing an emotionless, robotic style. Tarasov wanted this, arguing that courage meant maintaining an even temper, avoiding conflict. He wanted cold play, endless precision.

The Soviets also pushed the limits of the amateur-professional divide. In 1956, the year of the Olympics, the Kremlin created special boarding schools for the athletically gifted. Work on one's chosen sport took place daily, both before and after classes. By 1970, enrolment in Soviet sports schools would be over five million.

When they graduated to the big Soviet teams, the players were essentially quarantined, living year-round in training camps, cut off from everything else except hockey. The attitude of the Soviet hockey hierarchy was reflected in a statement by one of their coaches, Igor Dmitriev: "If an artist paints a picture, he has to be locked up for a month or so to get in the frame of mind to produce his masterpiece. If hockey is to be treated as the creation of a masterpiece, one must live with and in hockey. One has got to refuse everything else."

Few Canadians agreed with this rigid, gruelling system. One exception was Lloyd Percival, a hockey thinker in Toronto who thought along Tarasovian lines. Percival headed up a think-tank called the Sports College. He developed training systems to provide players with greater balance, agility, and lateral movement. He was remarkably prescient in such areas as nutrition, signalling the importance of getting players off fat-laden diets. Many of his theories were spelled out in his volume, *The Hockey Handbook*.

But few paid much attention to Percival. To the hockey hierarchy, content with the ad hoc development of the sport, he was viewed as some sort of hockey witch doctor. Ironically, the Soviets eventually got hold of Percival's book and paid more attention to it than the NHL did.

The Redshirts, after winning the '56 Olympics, didn't win any world championships for the few years following. But in the 1960s, they began to thoroughly dominate the amateur hockey world. Starting in 1964, they won four Olympic golds in succession.

By this time, Canada's hockey gurus were searching for answers. Canada formed a national amateur team that trained together, but it found no success. On an exhibition tour through Canada in 1969, future NHL star Ken Dryden, who played for the national squad, recalled the Soviets skating around the Canucks like they were lawn ornaments.

In a game in Victoria, Dryden faced a rubber barrage all night long. He would later recall marvelling at the Soviet ice Adonis Alexander Maltsev. With just a few seconds left in the game, Maltsev stood in the faceoff circle, so fresh he could go another sixty minutes. With an air of condescension, Maltsev looked over at Dryden. As the puck was about to be dropped, he winked at him. It was as if to say, "it's okay boy, your torment will soon be over."

As the 1970s opened, Canada had become so frustrated at not being able to have its professionals compete in the Games that the country withdrew from international competitions. The system was unjust. In the Soviet Union, there was no distinction between amateurs and professionals. The players were paid — though small sums of money — by the government. In the Soviet context they were in fact professionals, all of them. But the international hockey authorities didn't see it that way. The Canadian struggle to have equivalence — to have our professionals compete in world championships — would last for another two decades. It wouldn't be until 1998 that Canada entered its very best players in the Olympics.

In the meantime, even our best professionals — top NHL teams and all-star teams — were being beaten regularly by the top Soviet squads. There was of course the shocker of the 1972 series, which we almost lost. The Soviets then manhandled World Hockey Association all-stars in an eight-game series, often beat top NHL squads in individual team match-ups, and destroyed Canada in the 1979 Challenge Cup and the 1981 Canada Cup.

To be fair, Canada won its share as well. But when we beat them, it was often by virtue of emotional intensity and fight — the big weakness in the Soviet approach — as opposed to artistry.

Artistry was hardly the leading element in our hockey vocabulary.

One of our few coaches who took an interest in how the Communists had turned hockey into a mix of ballet and applied science was the Philadelphia Flyers' mentor Fred Shero. Freddie the Fog, as he was called, got hold of Tarasov's book and read it repeatedly. He was amazed.

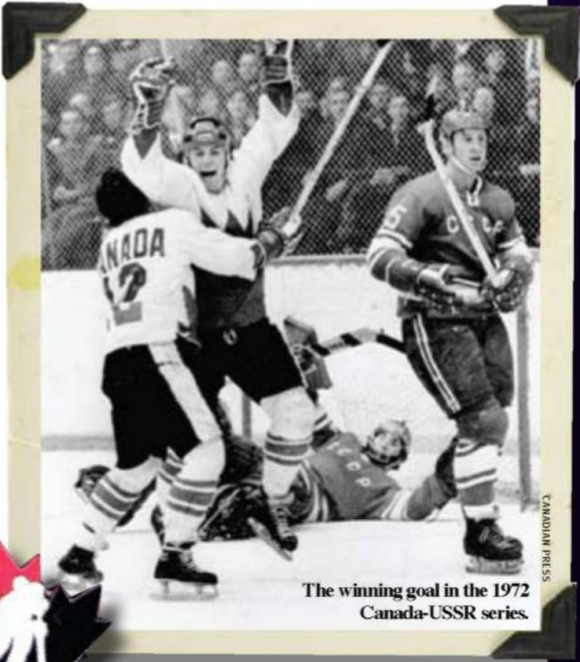
When he had played professionally, he recalled, "nobody told us anything except when to change lines. I remember once when they put me on the power play for the first time and I asked the coach what system we were using. 'What do you mean, system?' he told me. 'Just get out there and play, for Chrissakes.' "

The Canadians had shown themselves to be better at three elements of the game — hitting, shooting and passion. The Soviets, who had played on bigger ice surfaces for more than a century and had benefited from techniques taught in their hockey school system, excelled at skating and passing. The featheriness on the blade, the pivoting, the balance, the weaving formations — these skills were not easily mastered by others. There was resistance from old-school thinkers in North America, who promoted the blood-sport elements of hockey and were not taken with the tic-tac-toe passing and fancy style of the Soviets.

Ultimately, however, we started to pick up on some of the things the Soviets were doing, just as they blended in some of our hitting game and attack-the-net vigour. NHL teams developed systems.

Taking the lead from the Soviets, they put three or more coaches behind the bench. Teams explored new methods of conditioning. The European style of speed hockey and precision passing would be exemplified in Wayne Gretzky's Edmonton Oilers and their many Stanley Cup triumphs in the 1980s. Gretzky was a transformational figure. With his whirling dervish ways, he excelled more at the Soviet hockey arts than the Canadian ones. And since he was so superior, it was a style that could not be ignored, a style the new breed wanted to emulate.

Watching the Oilers one day, Vladimir Yurzinov, one of the USSR's top coaches, remarked on the excellent combinations, speed, and better use of open ice.


CANADIAN PRESS

The winning goal in the 1972 Canada-USSR series.

"What I've noticed," said Yurzinov, "is that now you have so many more players playing the collective style."

Collective style? Canadians weren't at the stage where the puck carrier was the servant of the other players. But there was no doubting that the old Soviet system had taught us a thing or two about the game we thought was our own.

Lawrence Martin is an Ottawa-based columnist for *The Globe and Mail*. He formerly served as the *Globe*'s bureau chief in Moscow, Washington and Montreal. He is the author of ten books, including two on Russian hockey, *The Red Machine* and *From Behind the Red Line*.

Et Cetera

Canada's Olympic Hockey History, 1920–2010 by Andrew Podnieks. H.B. Fenn and Company Ltd., Bolton, Ontario, 2009.

To view a National Film Board film on the history of hockey in Canada, go to TheBeaver.ca.

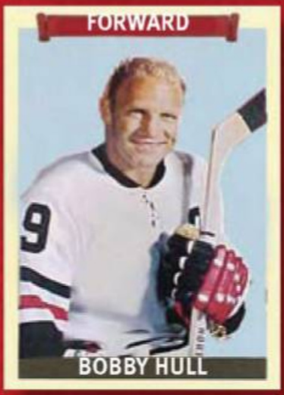
Canada's Hockey

Your choices for the best

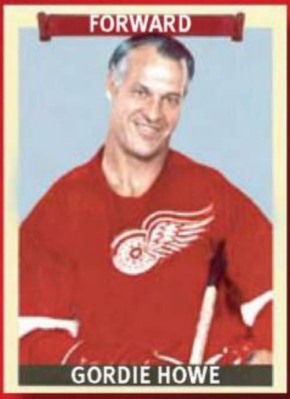
Since 1920, when the Winnipeg Falcons won for Canada the first ever Olympic hockey gold, the sport has been an Olympic focal point for Canadians. Vancouver 2010 will be no exception.

FORWARD
WAYNE GRETZKY

Holds 60 NHL records
Four Stanley Cups


FORWARD
BOBBY HULL

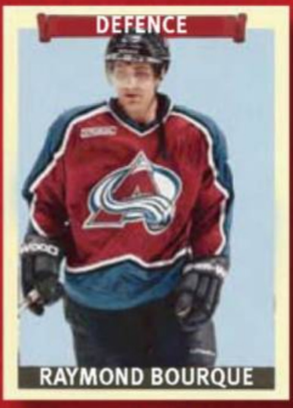
Twelve-time all-star
One Stanley Cup


FORWARD
GORDIE HOWE

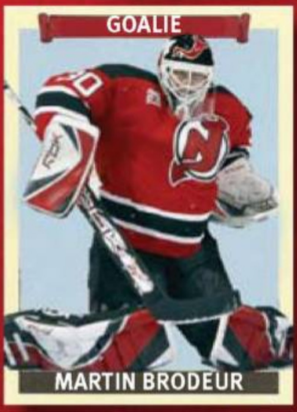
Six Hart (MVP) trophies
Four Stanley Cups

DEFENCE
BOBBY ORR

Record-setting scorer
Two Stanley Cups


DEFENCE
RAYMOND BOURQUE

Nineteen all-star selections
One Stanley Cup

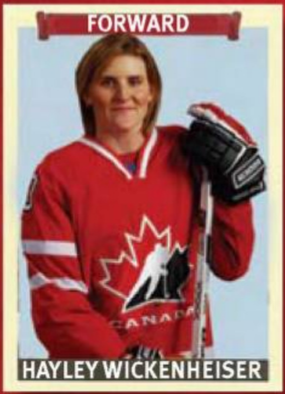

GOALIE
MARTIN BRODEUR

One Olympic gold
Three Stanley Cups

Dream Teams

Olympic lineups of all time.

To celebrate Canada's rich hockey legacy, we asked you, our readers, to pick the starting lineups for Canada's all-time greatest men's and women's hockey dream teams. Here are your choices:


FORWARD
HAYLEY WICKENHEISER

Three-time Olympic medallist
Broke ground in men's leagues

FORWARD
JAYNA HEFFORD

Three-time Olympic medallist
Scored winner in 2002

FORWARD
CASSIE CAMPBELL

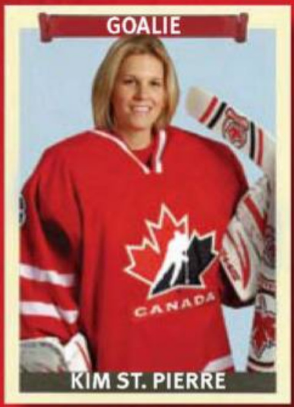
Three-time Olympic medallist
Team Canada captain

DEFENCE
CHERYL POUNDER

Two Olympic golds
Three-time top defender

DEFENCE
CARLA MACLEOD

Olympic Gold at Turin
IIHF gold in 2007


GOALIE
KIM ST. PIERRE

Two Olympic golds
Top goalie for CWHL

Download your free history hockey jerseys computer wallpaper at TheBeaver.ca.

Canada's Golden Girls

Salt Lake City was a turning point for women's hockey. by Julijana Capone

With the lucky Salt Lake loonie buried at centre ice, Canada's national women's hockey team entered the Winter Olympics arena ready to make history.

It was February 22, 2002, and the Canadians were facing off against the Americans in the gold-medal match. But, having lost eight consecutive exhibition games against the U.S. team during the previous year, the Canadians were clearly the underdogs. And the American women were the defending champions, having upset Canada to win gold at the Nagano Games in 1998.

"A lot of people expected the U.S. to beat us," recalls Danielle Goyette, who was a forward on both the Salt Lake City and Nagano teams.

CANADIAN PRESS

From left: Danielle Goyette, Lori Dupuis, and Cassie Campbell celebrate Canada's Olympic gold medal win in 2002.

Nagano was the first time women's hockey had been included at a Winter Games, and almost everyone believed Canada, which had ruled world championships up until then, would also rule the Olympics.

But Nagano proved heartbreaking for the Canadian women, whose sluggish, inconsistent play resulted in a 3–1 loss to the U.S. It was a moment Goyette and her teammates "didn't want to relive" in 2002.

Thus, the determined Canadian women charged to the ice in Salt Lake City, undaunted by skeptics, unfazed by the heckles of the partisan U.S. fans, and unmoved by the lopsided calls made by the officiating American referee. The Canadians would receive thirteen penalties, the Americans only four. Yet the Canadians would turn aside the vaunted U.S. power play eleven times.

The turning point came when Canada's Jayna Hefford scored with one second left in the second period to give the Canadians a 3–1 lead. The U.S. scored late in the third period on a power play to cut the lead to 3–2, but Canada hung on to win, an outcome many viewed as poetic justice.

Canadian goaltender Sami Jo Small reflected on the moments after the buzzer sounded: "I remember being one of the first ones to jump over the boards and jump on top of [goalie] Kim St. Pierre, and in the big melee of it all, thinking that we had done this, that we had won the gold."

Their gritty win inspired the Canadian men, who also went on to win hockey gold at Salt Lake, their first in fifty years.

For the women, it was an extraordinary moment in that it vaulted women's hockey to the forefront. For the first time, millions of people on both sides of the border watched an entire game of women's hockey — and actually appreciated it.

"They saw it as a hockey game, first and foremost," says Small.

That Winter Olympic moment changed the attitudes of parents who had seen ice hockey as an unfitting sport for their daughters. While women's hockey had been popular in Canada from the 1890s to the early part of twentieth century — there were leagues in most provinces — the sport fell out of favour after the Second World War.

It didn't start coming back as a sport for women until the 1960s. The momentum grew with its entry into the Olympics at Nagano and the high quality of competition at Salt Lake City.

"It became acceptable," says Small. "Fathers started putting their daughters into hockey, people started wanting to coach the game, and females who were playing it no longer had stigmas attached. It was now just the pursuit of excellence that was the ultimate goal."

Women's hockey is now considered one of the fastest growing sports in North America.

Julijana Capone is a freelance writer and rhetoric and communications student at the University of Winnipeg.

Canadian Beckie Scott, a vocal advocate for clean sport, skis to a silver medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

CANADIAN PRESS

Playing Fair

Canada and the ongoing fight against doping in sports.

by Bruce Dowbiggin

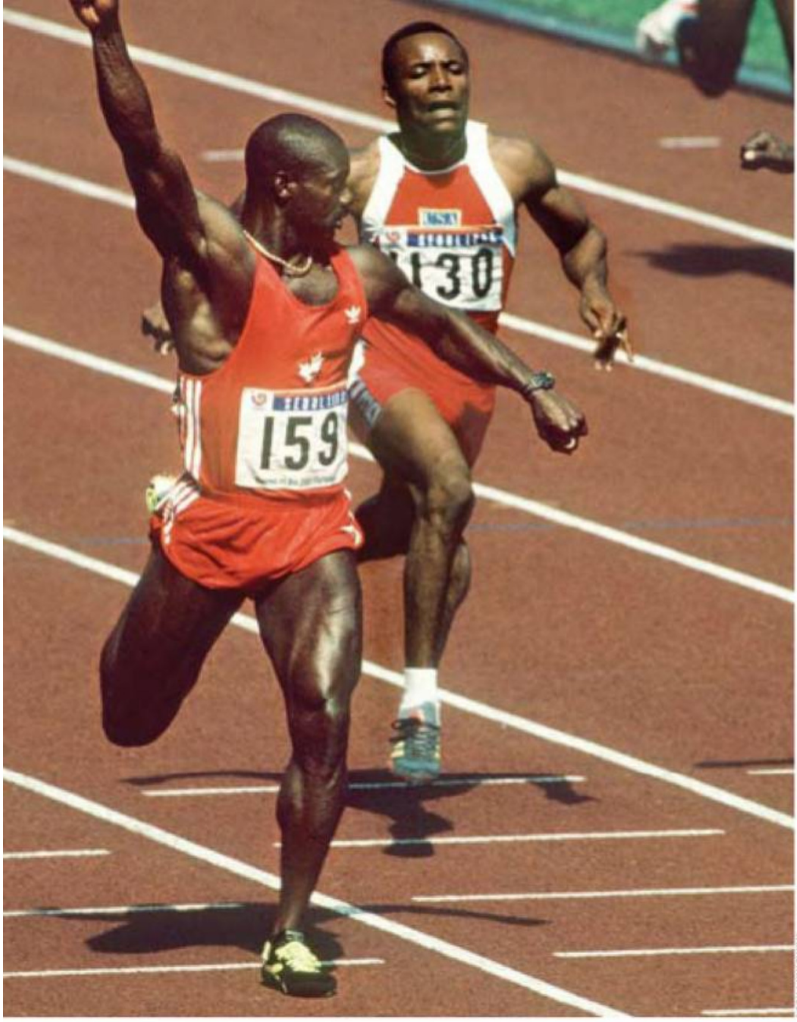
It wasn't how cross-country skier Beckie Scott expected to receive her Olympic gold medal. In the dream, there is a band playing your national anthem, the crowd at the finish line cheers, and the tears of joy roll happily down your face. For Scott, her gold medal came two-and-a-half years after her event concluded, wrapped in miles of red tape and robbed of the satisfaction of standing on the podium's top step.

When the women's five-kilometre cross-country ski event concluded in Salt Lake City in 2002, Scott was given a bronze medal — a stunning achievement for a Canadian in the sport, but not what she was dreaming of. The gold and silver medals went to Russians Olga Danilova and Larissa Lazutina — hardly a surprise in a sport where no North American had ever won Olympic gold. Danilova had won three medals at the previous Games in Nagano, including a gold.

But something about the Russians' performance rang false. Competitors said that the Russians skiers were dirty, beneficiaries of science, not sport. Samples given by the women after the event were tested and, sure enough, the two Russians were disqualified for using darbepoetin, a performance-enhancing drug.

"Technically, they are Olympic champions. Morally, it is a totally different issue," Jacques Rogge, chairman of the International Olympic Committee, said at the time. After a lengthy appeals process, their medal results were reversed. Scott was first awarded Lauzutina's silver medal; then she was upgraded to gold. "To say I'm an Olympic gold medallist now is the greatest honour," Scott said after the Court of Arbitration in Sport announced its ruling on December 18, 2003. She was officially presented with the medal in June 2004, at a ceremony in Vancouver. "I'm just so happy that things turned out the way they did."

Almost as happy was IOC vice-president Richard Pound, the Canadian who spearheaded the establish-



CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Ben Johnson celebrates after winning the 100-metre race at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea

ment of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Pound said Canadian sports officials had suspected that cross-country skiing was plagued with doping. He said having two Olympic medalists stripped of their medals, "sent an effective deterrent message that if you use this stuff we're going to get caught."

It was certainly a vindication for Scott. Her experience led the Alberta-born skier to become a tireless advocate for drug-free sport. She is today Canada's representative on the World Anti-Doping Agency's athlete committee.

While the disqualification was big news within Beckie Scott's sport (there are still those who say the Russians were wrongfully penalized), it barely raised a shrug in a general population weary of successive drug scandals at the Olympics.

From the steroid-pumped swimmers of East Germany, to the stunning fall of 100-metre Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, to the exposure of a decade of drug-use by U.S. runners such as Marion Jones — the sight of medals being stripped from famous athletes for doping violations has become old hat.

Until 1968, most Olympic doping issues involved amphetamines, particularly in cycling. The first anti-doping resolution was passed by the International Olympic Committee in 1962. Few then saw the issue as a threat to the integrity of the Games.

Blood on the track

Blood doping: Done to increase red blood cell mass, which allows more oxygen to be carried to the muscles, resulting in more stamina and strength. It can be done three ways — through injecting a hormone produced naturally by the human body, through the injection of chemicals or proteins that can carry oxygen, or through blood transfusions. A urine test can detect the use of hormones, chemicals or proteins. Test to detect blood transfusions, when the blood is from other people, was used in 2004. Tests to detect transfusions of stored blood from an athlete's own body are still being worked on.

What happened to the sacred Olympic creed of Baron de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics?

The creed, penned in 1908, declares: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

The reality is that the Olympics were eventually

Performance enhancement through history

Ancient Greek athletes used a variety of herbs and potions to gain a competitive edge.

Zulu warriors used an alcoholic drink called dop to brace themselves for battle.

Viking "berserkers" likely took hallucinogenic mushrooms — thus going berserk on the battlefield.

Nineteenth-century endurance athletes tried everything: nitroglycerine, opium, amphetamines, cocaine, strychnine, and ether.

Marathon runner Thomas Hicks received injections of strychnine and shots of brandy during his gold-medal run in the 1904 St. Louis Olympics.

Genetic cheating

Gene doping: Using still-experimental techniques to inject genes — especially those which control muscle functions and energy — into athletes to enhance their performance. Although no athlete has been caught gene doping — most experts believe it is not yet a reality — officials fear it will eventually pose a huge threat to fair athletic competition. Research is currently underway to detect gene doping.

used to meet the propaganda needs of nations seeking legitimacy and support. The 1936 Berlin Games formed the template for a politicized Games, where gold medals for Germany boosted Hitler's Nazi administration. After the Second World War, the Games resumed in a Cold War chill. Medals won translated into ideological victories for the capitalist or communist system.

Nowhere was the propaganda value of Olympic medals more valuable than in communist East Germany. Starting in the Mexico Games of 1968, the German Democratic Republic churned out a steady bonanza of medals greatly disproportionate to its 15 million population. Their swimmers were built like football players, their track athletes had Herculean builds, their skiers had seemingly unlimited endurance.

While the GDR had a systematic program of identifying young people with athletic ability and sending them to specialized schools to further their development, there was more to it than that.

Under the guidance of Dr. Manfred Hoppner and his acolyte Manfred Ewald, the GDR exploited the latest scientific breakthroughs by German firms such as VEB Jenapharm involving steroids and other drugs to create uber-athletes.

Early experiments with steroid regimes showed their potential in the 1968 Olympics. By 1970, Hoppner was ready to unleash his program on a vast scale. Using the athletes sequestered in the sports schools around the GDR, Hoppner introduced a dizzying regime of drugs to his unwitting proteges. The results were impressive. The GDR saw world-record holders like Kornelia Ender, Petra Schneider, Ute Geweniger, Barbara Krause, and Ulrike Richter crush their opponents.

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Richard Pound was one of the founders of the World Anti-Doping Agency, established in 1989 to monitor athletes for the use of banned substances.

"It's only because of the German penchant for keeping records that we were able to discover how widespread it was," says Pound, who competed as a swimmer in the 1960 Olympics. "There was no such thing as an informed consent by most of these athletes. It was compulsory. And in East Germany, compulsory meant compulsory. There was no morality at all in what they were doing."

In the 1976 Montreal Games, when the GDR won ten of the twelve individual swim medals, shell-shocked opponents asked to explain the results could only note that the

German athletes at the 1936 Berlin Olympics were injected with amphetamines.

Danish cyclist Knud Enemark Jensen had amphetamines in his body when he died during competition at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Xes JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER GRENOBLE 1968

The first Olympic drug tests were done in 1968 at the Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble and the Summer Games in Mexico City.

Depo®-Testosterone
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The first reliable test for detecting anabolic steroids came out in 1974.

Blood doping, used since the 1970s, was banned by the IOC in 1986.

Olympic track gold medallist Marion Jones speaks to the media outside of U.S. District Court in White Plains, N.Y. Marion pleaded guilty to two counts of lying to a federal agent about her steroid drug use.

CORBIS

Hidden hormones

Growth hormone use: Human growth hormones are taken to develop muscle mass. Reliable blood tests to detect growth hormones were first used at the Athens Olympics in 2004 but to date no one has been caught. Because athletes are believed to use them in the months leading up to competition, it's more effective to conduct surprise tests outside of competitive events.

Doping checklist

The World Anti-Doping Agency has a long list of substances that are banned, such as anabolic steroids, stimulants, narcotics, diuretics (as masking agents), certain asthma medications, and cannabis. These can mostly be detected through urine or blood analysis. Athletes can obtain therapeutic use exemptions for some drugs.

German women certainly had deep voices — a byproduct of steroid abuse in women. The East German medal hauls continued into the 1980s. With drug-testing efforts seemingly remaining a step behind the latest technology, athletes from other countries — from the USA to the USSR — followed suit.

Doping became the dirty problem of international sport, darkly joked about yet impossible to stop.

Then came the Seoul Olympics of 1988, when the steroid success story was finally tripped up in public by Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

A muscular dynamo, Johnson became a national hero in Canada with his sensational 9.79-second time in the 100-metre sprint that won the gold medal in Seoul. The Canadian euphoria ended forty-eight hours later, when the IOC informed the world that Johnson had tested positive for the steroid Stanazolol. He was stripped of the gold medal, which went to Carl Lewis. Britain's Linford Christie received the silver (both subsequently tested positive for drugs in their careers but kept their Olympic medals). For once, it appeared that the drug cheats had not been able to out-fox the testing of the IOC.

The reaction was palpable. Back home, one columnist started his column saying "Ben, you bastard." The Toronto Sun bleated "Why Ben? Why? Why did you do it?"

Canada reacted to the scandal by convening an inquiry into the use of drugs in sports under Chief Justice Charles Dubin. Taking ninety-one days from January of 1989, the inquiry heard about the widespread use of drugs in Canadian track from 122 witnesses. Olympic heroes such as Mark McKoy, Angela Issajenko, and Bishop Dolegiewicz all confessed to using steroids. Johnson's coach Charlie Francis gave a symposium on doping that left little doubt that Johnson was hardly the only Canadian doping at the Seoul Games. The inquiry exposed Canadian athletes caught up in an international scandal.

"It's still a national embarrassment," Pound says of the episode. "We probably took a bullet for everyone."

Sobered by the Johnson scandal and inspired by clean champions such as Canada's Donovan Bailey, the 1990s should have ushered in a golden age for cleaning up sport. But there was too much money at stake. In 1998 alone, American sprinter Marion Jones earned $7 million in endorsements and race winnings. She would later admit to doping.

Pound's Montreal-based Word Anti-Doping Agency could hardly keep up with the drug cheats.

For instance, American Victor Conte cooked up a steroid blend —norbolethone and THG (tetrahydrogestrinone) — called The Clear, for its ability to fool the drug testing of the time. The Clear was used by a stable of American Olympic stars —including gold medalist Marion Jones. Conte might have succeeded with the Clear had disgruntled coach Trevor Graham not sent a sample to the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

Jones was eventually jailed for lying to investigators, and almost all of his clients were caught. The U.S. track community — long protected by its Olympic officials and the complicity of drug cheats — was finally exposed.

The game of cat-and-mouse between dopers and regulators continues to this day, led by World Anti-Doping Agency's dogged attempts to stay ahead of the curve.

Sports journalist Bruce Dowbiggin has had a long and distinguished career in newspaper and television media and is the author of several books on sports. His most recent book is *The Meaning of Puck.* (2008).

Et cetera

The World Anti-Doping Agency, at www.wada-ama.org.

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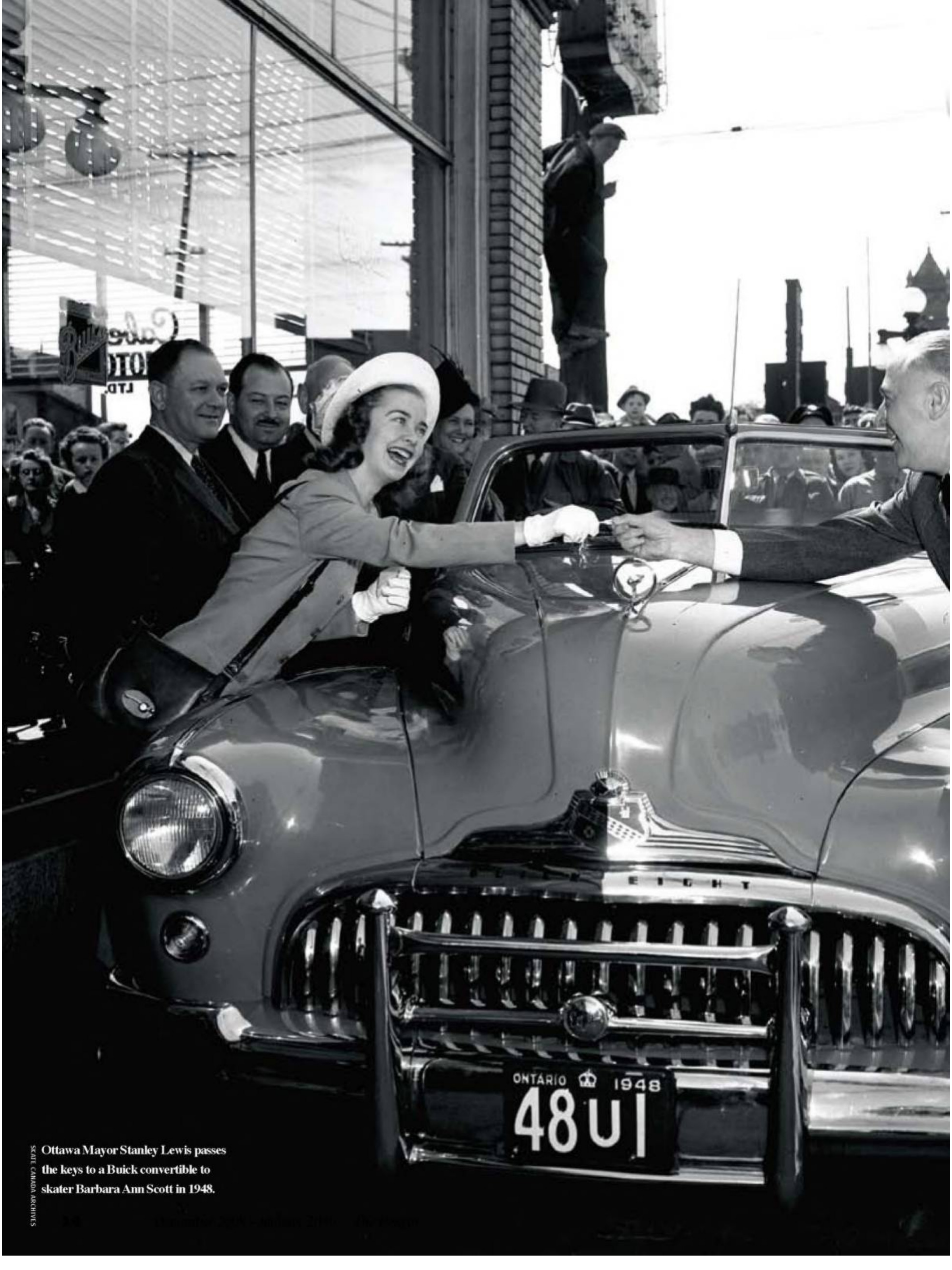


ONTARIO 1948
48U1
EIGHT

Ottawa Mayor Stanley Lewis passes the keys to a Buick convertible to skater Barbara Ann Scott in 1948.

SKATE CANADA ARCHIVES

ICE QUEEN IN HOT SEAT

THE GIFT OF A SPORTY NEW BUICK GAVE CANADA'S SWEETHEART SOME GRIEF.

BY BARBARA SCHRODT AND MARK REID

It was standing room only at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa as crowds of well-wishers gathered for a glimpse of figure skating champion Barbara Ann Scott.

It was March 7, 1947, and Scott had just returned to Canada after being crowned European and world figure skating champion. The murmur of the crowd rose to a roar as the elegantly dressed young woman finally emerged, along with the beaming mayor of Ottawa, Stanley Lewis. Decked in a dapper three-piece pinstripe suit, and wearing his formal chain of office, Lewis stepped up to a microphone.

Barbara Ann Scott displays her European and world medals in 1947.

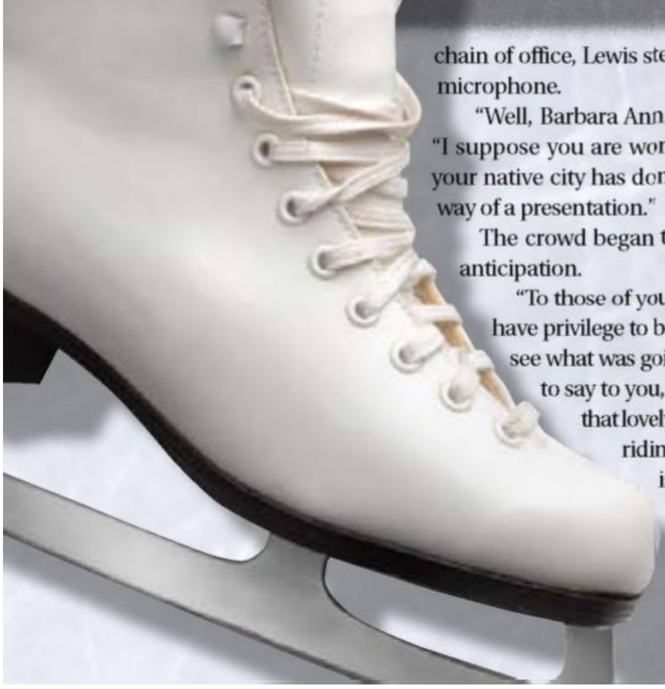
SKATE CANADA ARCHIVES

"Well, Barbara Ann," Lewis said, "I suppose you are wondering what your native city has done for you, by way of a presentation."

The crowd began to whisper in anticipation.

"To those of you who did not have privilege to be outside and see what was going on, I want to say to you, Barbara, that that lovely car you were riding in today — is yours!"

Once again, applause echoed throughout the Chateau Laurier. And for a moment, Scott — impeccably dressed in a jacket and skirt, her auburn hair cascading in ringlets framed by a darling white hat — was speechless. "Oh!" she exclaimed, barely audible over the din. "Thank you very much! Oh, wow!"



The shy, nineteen-year-old skater stepped up to the podium and thanked the city of Ottawa for "this wonderful gift!" As the mayor led the assembled in three rousing cheers of "hip, hip, hooray!" Scott smiled, clutching the keys to the new cream-coloured Buick convertible that nearly derailed her Olympic career.

Little did she know that accepting this gift would ignite an international controversy and call into question the Olympic rules on amateurism in sport.

By 1947, Barbara Ann Scott was the most popular sports figure in Canada. Children idolized her. Fans followed her every move. A cottage industry sprang up selling memorabilia, including a best-selling Barbara Ann Scott doll.

Her success in Europe was not surprising. She had already won the North American championship that year and had been Canadian champion for three years. Now, the newly christened "Canada's Sweetheart" began a public engagement tour in Ontario, leaving her new car — with license plate number "47 U 1" — barely broken in.

For a month, all seemed well.

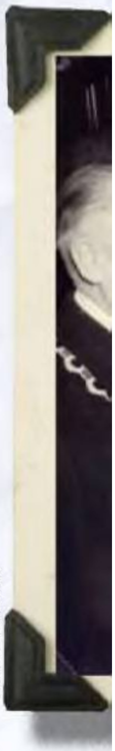
Then, on May 6, 1947, the *Toronto Star* suggested that the gift might have contravened Olympic rules governing amateur status for athletes. The *Star* quoted American Olympic official Avery Brundage as saying he believed Scott had endangered her amateur status by accepting the gift. If true, this would make Scott ineligible to compete in the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland — the very event that she had been working toward for years.

The *Star* claimed Brundage had sent a letter on April 12 to the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Sigfrid Edström of Sweden, informing him of the gift.

Unlike today, professional athletes at the time were banned from Olympic competition. Brundage was suggesting that Scott, by accepting the car, had in effect become a professional athlete. Edström agreed that this was a clear violation of Olympic eligibility rules and alerted the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC).

Brundage was himself a controversial figure in international sport. He had gained a reputation as a zealot who was overly fixated on strict observance of the rules governing amateur status.

In the 1984 book *The Games Must Go On: Avery Brundage and the Olympic Movement,* author Allen Guttman wrote of Brundage's "fanatic desire to achieve absolute purity within the sacred realm of amateur



SKATE CANADA ARCHIVES

sports." According to Guttman, Brundage once called professional athletes "a troop of trained seals" and believed they had no place at the Olympic Games.

Brundage certainly had no friends in the Canadian media. The day after the *Toronto Star* story, articles appeared in newspapers from coast to coast condemning Brundage and defending Scott's honour. Canadians saw Brundage as a meddling American who had no business interfering in Canadian athletics.

The controversy even reached the House of Commons. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King contacted J.C. Patteson, Canada's representative on the IOC, and asked that he do everything possible to protect Scott's interests.

Then the story took a new twist. Brundage, besieged by criticism and complaints from Canadians, was informed that Canadian sports officials had officially approved of the gift of the car before it was presented to Scott. Due to these "extenuating circumstances," Brundage said it appeared that the Canadian sports officials were at fault, and not Scott herself. On May 8, Brundage told the *Toronto Star* that if Scott returned the car her chances of retaining her amateur status should be very good.

Scott, meanwhile, had already decided to return the troublesome Buick. Competing in the Olympics had long been her dream. She had sacrificed too much to throw it all away over a car.

The handover, which took place on May 12, is detailed in the 1948 biography of Scott, titled *She Skated Into Our Hearts*. In the chapter "A Lady Gives Up Her Car," biographer Cay Moore describes the scene. It took place at Ottawa's city hall garage. No adoring crowds were present. Barbara Ann, accompanied by her mother, pulled up in the Buick and parked alongside the curb. Awaiting their arrival was Ottawa's downcast mayor.

Scott arrives in Ottawa in 1947 after winning the World Figure Skating Championships. At left is Mayor Lewis.

"Barbara Ann slid out from behind the wheel and handed the keys to Mayor Lewis," Moore wrote. "Tears welled up in her eyes but she managed a wan little smile.

"'Here are the keys, Mr. Mayor.'"

Lewis solemnly accepted the keys, telling Scott it was an honour to give her the car, and a "sorrow" to take it back. "You are still Ottawa's sweetheart," he said. Scott suggested that the car be raffled off for a worthy charity, but Lewis said that it would be kept on display.

Newspapers across Canada carried news of the return of the Buick. All told, Scott had owned the automobile for two months, and, according to Moore, the speedometer had clocked only about 1,600 kilometres, racked up while travelling to "charitable events."

Barbara Ann Scott doll, circa 1948.

In a letter to the Canadian IOC representative, Edström, the IOC president, indicated that Scott's action in returning the car made her "a true amateur," and nothing more was said about her status. With this, attention turned to assigning blame for the fiasco. How could this happen?

It clearly wasn't Mayor Lewis's fault. He had asked Canadian sports officials for approval of the gift. The request had been passed on to the COC, which chose to forward the request to the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (AAU), which controlled all amateur sport in Canada.

The Eastern Ontario Branch of the AAU received the proposal. Officials there examined the rule book and could find no regulations against accepting such a gift — so they gave their blessing. Canadian figure skating officials also greenlighted the gift. None of these officials seemed to be aware of the strict Olympic Code, which forbade gifts in excess of thirty-five dollars.

And neither they nor the Canadian sports reporters covering the story seemed to understand that the Olympic Games were conducted according to the Olympic Code, which took precedence over the rules of other organizations.

In their defence, the 1948 games were the first to be held since 1936, due to the Second World War. IOC rule changes had not filtered down to all levels of sports officialdom.

Further confusing the matter, many Canadians believed a precedent had been set in 1928, when Canadian sprinter Percy Williams was given a car following his double victories at that year's Summer Olympics in

Amsterdam. Accepting that gift had not prevented Williams from competing in the 1932 games.

Disagreement lingered even after Scott returned the car, with both the COC and the president of the International Skating Union saying that Scott should have been able to keep the Buick.

On May 15 — three days after the return of the car — Lewis wrote to the prime minister, asking that a federal inquiry be held into the COC due to the mishandling of the gift and the ensuing controversy. When it was raised in the House of Commons, King declined the request.

Sports historian Stephen Wenn has studied the car controversy and says there are several reasons why it caused such consternation. Following the Second World War, he says, Canadians were searching for a hero or heroine to lift their spirits. Buoyed by national pride, Canadians saw the attack on their "sweetheart" by Brundage — an American, no less — as a challenge to Canadian nationalism and a blatant attempt to interfere in Canadian affairs. Anti-Americanism had been an issue in Canada since the nineteenth century, and sovereignty concerns had risen again after the Second World War; the desire to resist American pressure or intervention was seen throughout this affair.

As for Scott, she put the controversy behind her and concentrated on her skating.

In January 1948, she won the European championship. A few weeks later, she headed to the St. Mortiz Olympics, where she faced terrible ice conditions. Two hockey games had left most of the outdoor rink covered in ruts and shale ice. But she and her coach, Sheldon Galbraith, repositioned her routine to avoid the difficult spots, and she confidently skated to a resounding Olympic victory in the free program. A few days later, Scott won the world championship. And when she subsequently returned home to win the Canadian women's senior title, she achieved what no woman figure skater has ever done: she simultaneously held the Olympic, World, European, and North American titles, as well as her own national title.

While in St. Moritz, Scott finally came face to face with the notorious Avery Brundage. Brundage reportedly said, "I suppose you don't like me." In true Scott character, she replied, "Mr. Brundage, I'm eternally grateful to you.... You were kind enough to speak up immediately."

Scott saw Brundage's interference as having effectively saved her amateur skating career. She later graciously remarked that Brundage was good for amateur sport, and had really only been doing his job.

When she returned to Ottawa on March 9, 1948, the mayor declared a civic holiday. Scott was greeted by a crowd of seventy thousand supporters in the biggest spontaneous celebration in Ottawa's history. Eventually, she got her Buick back, only now it was painted blue and displayed the license plate "1948 U 1." Three months later, Scott announced that she would turn professional.

In the wake of the convertible caper, the Canadian Olympic Committee in 1948 obtained independence from the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada and became the Canadian Olympic Association.

In 1952, Avery Brundage became president of the International Olympic Committee. During his controversial twenty-year tenure, his strict anti-professionals stance resulted in many conflicts with athletes and sports organizations around the world. But major changes were in the offing; throughout his successor's term of office, interpretations of the eligibility rules were softened, and by the 1980s, the word "amateur" was stripped from the eligibility code, along with all references to gifts and monetary compensation.

As for Scott, she kept her car for four years. She performed as the star of Canadian and American ice shows and revues for five years. When Scott retired from skating, she married Thomas King, and the couple lived in Chicago from 1955 to 1997. During that time, she competed in the horse-riding sport of equitation, which judges the rider's performance and control of the horse. She won more than four hundred trophies over a period of thirty years. The couple now lives in Florida.

Barbara Schrodt, a sport historian, is associate professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia. Mark Reid is the editor of *The Beaver*.

To hear a podcast with Barbara Ann Scott and see exclusive Skate Canada photos, go to TheBeaver.ca.

Honours

Lou Marsh Trophy
(1945, 1947, 1948)

Canada's Outstanding
Female Athlete
of the Year
(1945, 1947)

Canadian
Press Award
(1946, 1947, 1948)

Canadian Olympic
Hall of Fame
(1949)

Canada's Sports
Hall of Fame
(1955)

Ottawa Sports
Hall of Fame
(1966)

U.S. (now World)
Figure Skating
Hall of Fame
(1979)

Canadian Figure
Skating Hall of Fame
(1991)

Order of Canada
(Officer)
(1991)

International
Women's Sports
Hall of Fame
(1997)

Canada's Walk
of Fame
(1998)

Canadian
Olympic Order
(2008)

Career Highlights

1928 – May 9, born in Ottawa.

1938 – Became youngest Canadian to pass North American gold figures test.

1940 – Canadian junior champion.

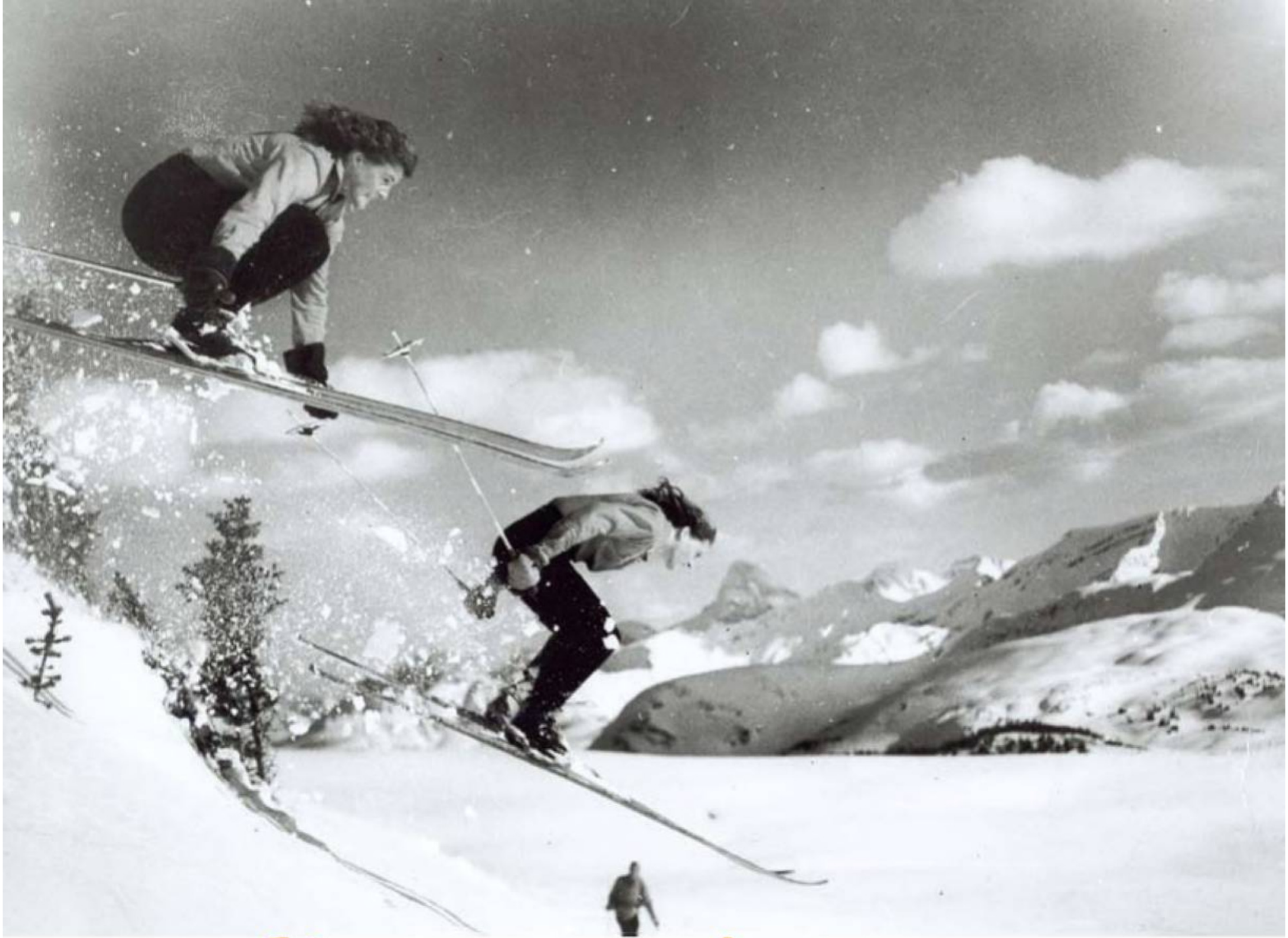
1942 – First woman to land double lutz jump in competition.

1944 – Canadian senior champion; repeated in 1945, 1946, and 1948.

1945 – North American champion (biennial competition); repeated in 1947.

1947 – World and European champion.

1948 – World, Olympic, and European champion. Retired from amateur competition later that year and turned professional.



Rhoda and Rhona in flight on Sunshine Mountain, Banff, 1946.

CANADIAN SKI MUSEUM, OTTAWA ON/71.26.1

Ladies Don't Leap

Women have fought for the right to compete since the modern Olympics began. And they're still fighting. by Bruce Kidd

On a windy winter's day in 1933 in Montreal's Mount Royal Park, eleven-year-old Rhoda and Rhona Wurtele climbed up the rickety, wooden thirty-eight-metre Côte de Neige ski jump and skied down the ramp. It was the senior jump and towered over the city. Few women had ever tried it.

The twins can't remember who went first. A few minutes earlier they had gone off the junior jump for the first time, only to be told by their older brother Edgar that, "you don't get to brag until you've gone off the senior jump." Before he could stop them, up and off they went, landing safely after soaring through the air for more than twenty metres. They liked it so much that they went right back up and did it again, and then again, lengthening their distance to more than twenty-five metres before the afternoon was out.

For the next few weeks, they jumped as often as they could, turning heads with every flight. Their father even filmed them. "We were just having a lot of fun," Rhona Wurtele Gillis, now eighty-eight, recalled recently. But as the season's major competition approached, there were no events for women, so the promoters asked them to go off the jump together holding hands as a circus stunt. When the press called their mother, she put a stop to it, fearing that they could be hurt.

The Wurteles continued to make headlines, dominating North American alpine events in the 1940s and representing Canada at the 1948 and 1952 Winter Olympics. But they rarely jumped again, and never competitively.

CANADIAN PRESS

Nancy Greene, shown here at the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, still holds the Canadian record for World Cup victories (thirteen).

Canadian women have performed extraordinary feats of athleticism in the ice and snow sports that comprise the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Most years, they brought more medals home from the Games than their male counterparts, even though they competed in fewer events. In virtually every Winter Olympics in the post-World War II era, it was the women who most frequently brought Canadians to their feet to hear the national anthem — Barbara Ann Scott in 1948, Anne Heggteveit in 1960, Nancy Greene in 1968, Karen Magnussen in 1972, Kathy Kreiner in 1976, Kerrin Lee Gartner in 1992, Miriam Bedard in 1994, Sandra Schmirler in 1998, Beckie Scott and the women's hockey team in 2002, and Chandra Crawford, Jennifer Heil, Clara Hughes, Cindy Klassen, and the women's hockey team in 2006 — spectacularly legitimizing the aspirations of women to equity, dignity, and respect.

But like the Wurteles, Canadian women often faced resistance, and it always took much longer for their events to be recognized. For instance, despite their concerted lobbying, the support of the Canadian government and the Canadian Olympic Committee, and a court challenge, at the time of writing, female ski jumpers were still banned from competing at the Vancouver Games in 2010.

Canadian women have given us some of the most defining moments in the Winter Olympics. When Barbara Ann Scott stepped on the ice for the free skate final in the 1948 Games on the outdoor rink at St. Moritz, Switzerland, the sun was blazing, spectators were taking off their coats, and after two hockey games, the ice was soft and cracked. Scott visualized herself as the princess of cold, imagining that she could freeze the ice into the hardness she needed. She then proceeded to skate to a gold medal.

When Nancy Greene roared down the giant slalom course in Grenoble, France, in 1968 to win Olympic gold by an unheard of 2.64 seconds, she demonstrated courage, resourcefulness, and love of adventure — qualities that Canadians have always needed to co-exist with winter. After her career as a ski racer, Greene, now a Canadian senator, continued to provide leadership in Canadian sport, helping to open up the Whistler area for skiing and assisting countless young skiers.

Most female Olympians did not pursue their sport in isolation. They got their start in families or small communities where winter social life was organized around curling, hockey, and the sliding sports. Everyone was expected to take part, and there was encouragement for the gifted and the ambitious.

There were tight, supportive networks in the sports as well. The Wurteles inspired Canada's first alpine medallist, Lucille Wheeler. Wheeler grew up near Mont-Tremblant in Quebec and was encouraged to take up skiing by her parents, who operated a wilderness lodge. Wheeler won Canada's first alpine medal, a downhill bronze, at Cortina in 1956. She in turn encouraged Ottawa's Anne Heggteveit, who also grew up in an Ottawa skiing family and won Canada's first alpine gold in Squaw Valley in 1960. Heggteveit mentored her sixteen-year-old roommate, Nancy Greene, helping her see that she could win as well.

The father of Kathy Kreiner — the Olympic champion in the giant slalom in Innsbruck in 1976 — was the team doctor in Grenoble. His homemade movies and stories of Greene inspired his children, who learned to ski on the Timmins, Ontario, hill he helped build. Two of his daughters, Kathy and Laurie, became Olympians. Kerrin Lee Gartner, who won the downhill at the 1992 Games in Albertville, France, grew up next door to Greene.

Beckie Scott, who has inspired a new generation of Nordic skiers, including Turin medallists Chandra Crawford and Sara Renner, tells a similar story. "I learned to ski in the club started by my parents in a town of five thousand people [Vermillion, Alberta]. When I was twelve, they got Les Parsons to coach me, and he took me to the national team. It was just a handful of very influential people."

The support of these relationships was important, as girls and women have faced particularly challenging hurdles. In the early days of bobsleigh, for instance, women competed alongside men. But while the men's event was placed on the program of the first Winter Games in 1924, women bobsledders were forgotten. They could not compete at the Olympics until 2002. In hockey, celebrated teams like the Preston Rivulettes of Cambridge, Ontario, packed arenas across North America in the 1930s, but in the push to get women back into the home after the Second World War, women's hockey was discontinued in many communities. Sporting goods firms even stopped making women's hockey skates.

During the last forty years of second- and third-wave feminism, girls and women have entered and triumphed in every sport there is, yet the myths of women's frailty persist. As recently as 2005, Gian Franco Kasper, president of the International Ski Federation, argued that a woman's uterus could burst upon landing, contradicting the International Olympic Committee's medical commission, which has reported that "the female reproductive organs are better protected from serious injury than the male organs."

The IOC proclaims the principle of "universal participation," "strongly encourages the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures," and has committed to not accept a new sport without a women's competition. Yet it is not prepared to undo an old injustice and let female jumpers compete in 2010. It cites the "technical reason" that a world championship for women has yet to be held and claims there is an insufficient number of qualified jumpers to justify a competition. IOC president Jacques Rogge told a Vancouver media conference that "we do not want the medals to be diluted and watered down," despite the fact that there are more participants in this sport than snowboard cross, skier cross, or bobsled, sports already on the Olympic program.

In response, a group of fifteen jumpers from Canada, the United States, and Europe took the Vancouver Organizing Committee to court, arguing that publicly funded facilities should be open to both genders and that if the women can't jump, neither should the men. They also maintained that the IOC rule contravenes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In July 2009, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled against the group. Justice Lori Ann Fenlon agreed that the exclusion was discriminatory under Canadian law, but concluded that the IOC is not accountable to Canadian courts, so she could not order the IOC to change the program.

Her decision has been devastating to the jumpers. "All that hard work, all that passion for the sport that's been part of me for ten years, just flashed before my eyes," Calgary's Katie Willis told reporters after the ruling came down. "It's been my whole life. It was everything, really, the chance to represent my country in 2010." The decision is under appeal. It was unclear at the time of writing whether a ruling on the appeal would be made before the Vancouver Olympics.

As for the Wurtele sisters, they remain active octogenarians — they cycle, play golf, and, of course, ski. They still run the Twinski Club in Montreal, which they started in 1962 to help more women enjoy skiing. And they would like to see women's ski jump at the Winter Oympics, even if it's only as an exhibition.

Just Imagine
"Implementing The Principle Of Equality Of Men And Women"
The Olympic Charter
Let Wo
Ski Jump

CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian ski jumper Katie Willis (right) and the USA's Lindsey Van were among those fighting to have women included in ski jumping at the 2010 Games.

"I don't know what the objection is," says Rhona Wurtele Gillis. "It's sad.

Bruce Kidd is a professor and dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health at the University of Toronto. He competed in the 1964 Olympics in track and field.

Et Cetera

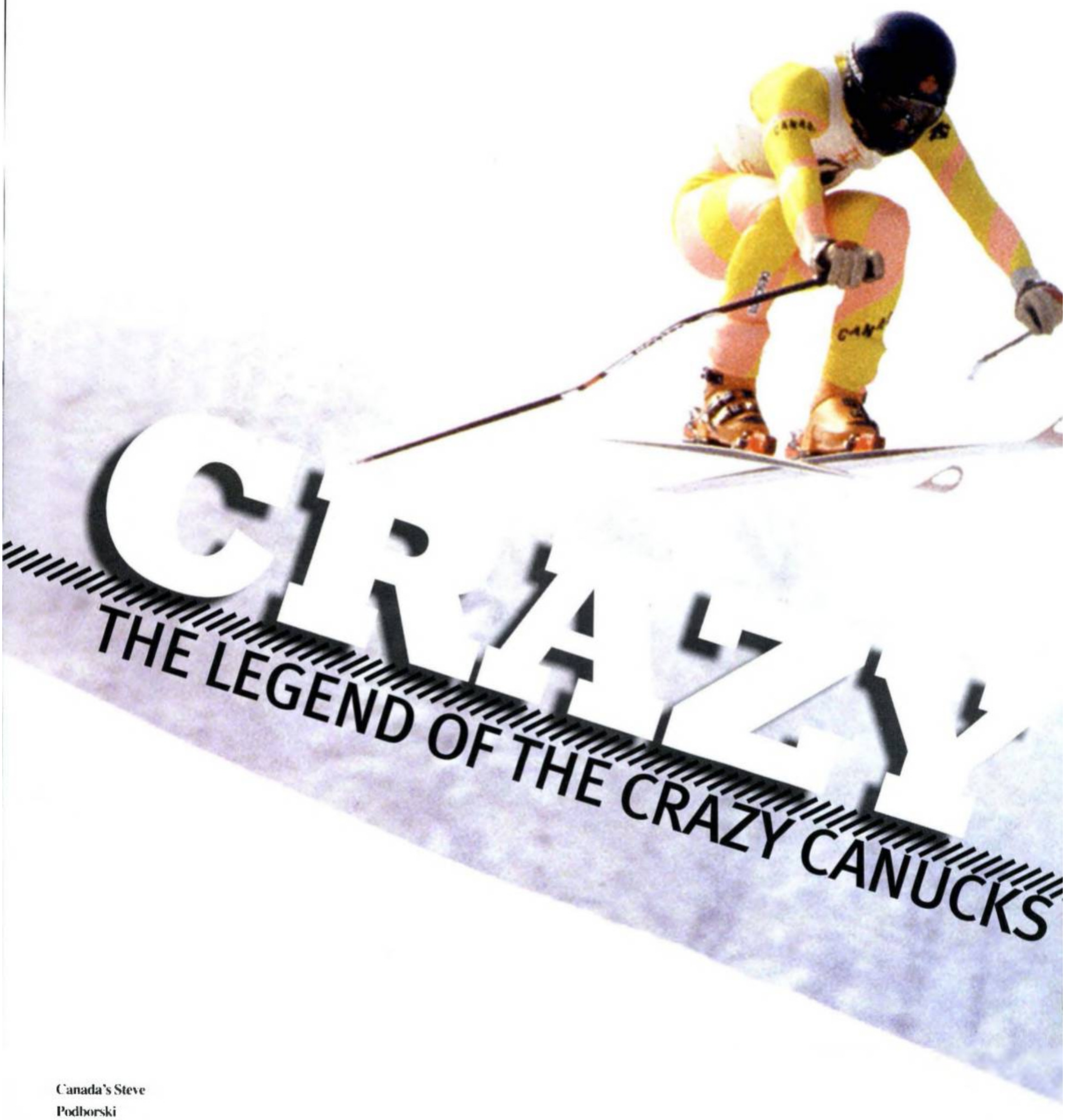
Celebrating Excellence: Canadian Women Athletes by Wendy Long. Polestar Books, Vancouver, 1995.

The Girl and the Game: A History of Women's Sport in Canada by Ann Hall. Broadview Press, Peterborough, Ontario, 2002.

No Limits: The Amazing Story of Rhona and Rhoda Wurtele, Canada's Olympian Ski Pioneers by Byron Rempel. Twinski Publishing, Montreal, 2007.

CRAZY

THE LEGEND OF THE CRAZY CANUCKS



Canada's Steve Podborski races during the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

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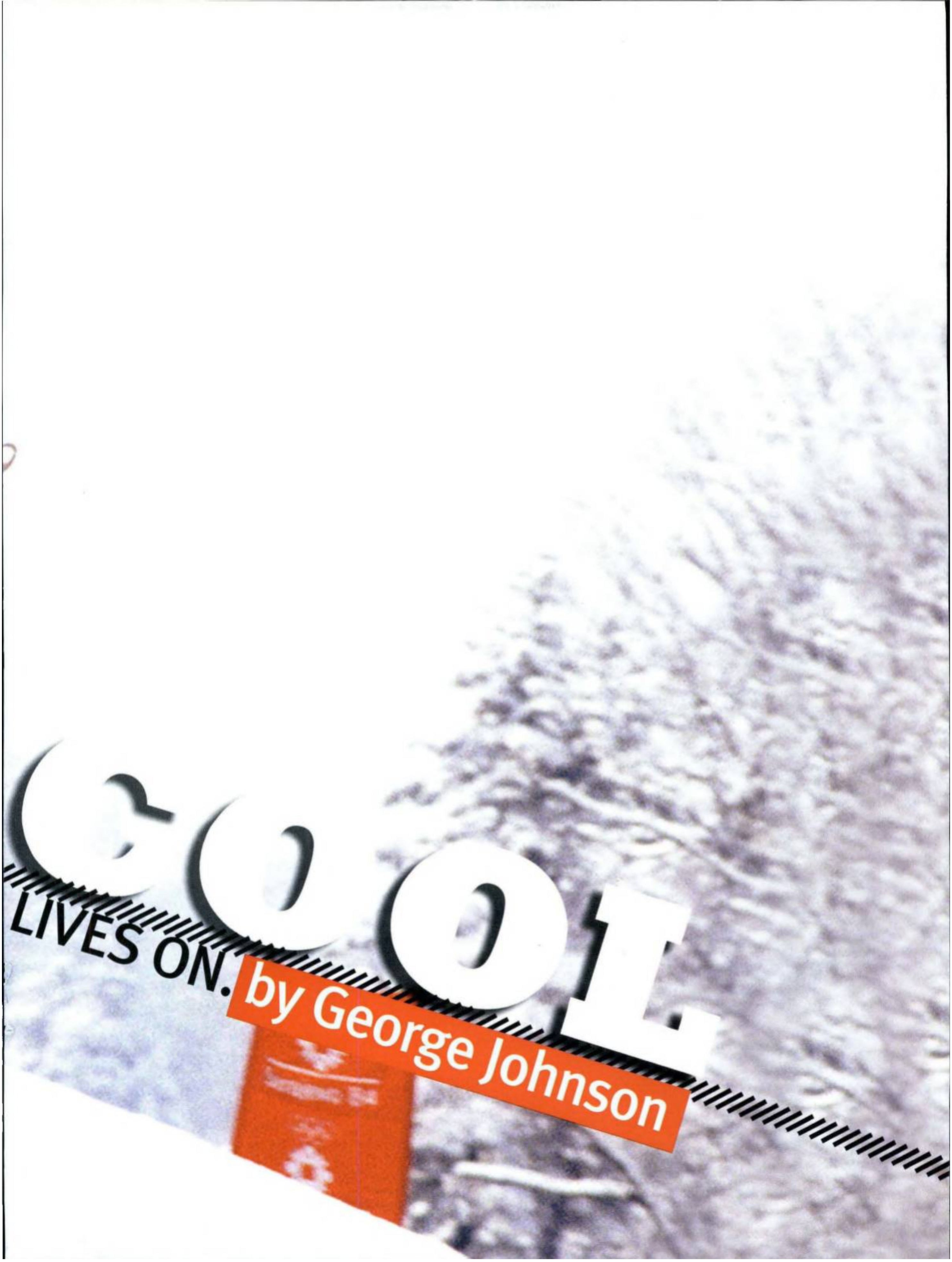


COOL LIVES ON.

by George Johnson

Over a quarter century has flown by since the Canadian men's downhill ski team took the world by storm. Even today, everyone remembers Ken Read, Steve Podborski, Dave Irwin, and Dave Murray — the Crazy Canucks.

"I think people remember us because of the way we competed," says Read. "We attacked courses. We wanted to ski fast. We were young. We were underdogs. We were confident without being cocky. We had a good time. We won races. I think all those factors play a part in it."

He stops, thoughts drifting back.

"Then again, maybe it was just the cool yellow suits."

From 1975 through 1982, the Crazy Canucks transformed alpine skiing in Canada from a niche sport into a headline grabber. Their exploits on the fabled slopes of Europe paved the way for World Cup races in Canada, as well as increased Canadian coverage of the sport.

PIERRE MICHEL

The three surviving members — Dave Murray died of cancer in 1990 — remain in the spotlight. Dave Irwin, who suffered severe head trauma in a skiing accident in 2001, heads a foundation to promote the prevention of acquired brain injuries. Steve Podborski, the first North American man to win an Olympic medal in downhill skiing, is part of the organizing committee for the 2010 Games. He helped bring the Olympics to Vancouver and is an assistant chef de mission for the Canadian team. And Ken Read, the first North American male to win a downhill World Cup event, was president and CEO of Alpine Canada. He is now working with Alpine Alberta.

"What's great," says Read, "is that the old guard is giving back to a sport, to a program that did so much for all of us."

The kind of attention Canada's ski team gets today is a far cry from the obscurity the Crazy Canucks were labouring under when they started out back in the early 1970s.

"There was no TV, and we had just one guy following us around Europe, filing stories to the papers back home," recalls Irwin. "We were nothing. Nobody knew us. And the whole thing just kind of ... exploded. Looking back on it now, it's just amazing, almost surreal."

In December 1975, Read awoke the country to the thrill of alpine skiing when, at Val d'Isère, France, he made his groundbreaking World Cup victory. Not since Canada's Nancy Greene won the World Cup overall title for women in 1967 and 1968 had there been so much attention focused on a Canadian skier.

Read would reach the top of the podium four more times, conquering the legendary races of Hahnenkamm, Austria, and Lauberhorn, Switzerland, along the way. Dave Murray had three podium finishes and placed third overall in the 1979 downhill standings. Dave Irwin snared one World Cup win, two podium spots, and nine top-ten finishes.

And Steve Podborski? He outdid them all, making history in 1982 by claiming the overall World Cup downhill crown. During the course of his career, he racked up eight World Cup triumphs and an incredible thirty-four top-ten finishes.

If the Crazy Canucks left anything undone, it came every four years, at the Olympic Games. They won only one medal between them

XIII OLYMPIC
WINTER
GAMES
LAKE
PLACID
1980

— a bronze for Podborski in the 1980 downhill at Lake Placid.

"The Olympics are really a bit of a crapshoot," explains Podborski. "You're not going to do well at an Olympics unless a) you're super-sharp at the right moment, or b) you last forever. You get two, maybe three cracks at an Olympic medal, if you're lucky. So it all comes down to the day."

Irwin had carried the Maple Leaf into the stadium in Innsbruk, Austria, at the 1976 Winter Games, but finished a disappointing eighth. Read was flag-bearer four years later at the Games in Lake Placid, where he lost his left ski fifteen seconds into a race and crashed spectacularly.

"You know, I don't sit at home and cry over spilled milk," says Read today. "I know that for those Olympic races, I prepared as well as I could, did everything possible, and for whatever reasons, it just wasn't my day. That's ski racing."

While the public remembers his Olympic achievement, Podborski himself sees his two victories at the notorious Hahnenkamm, a mountain near the Austrian resort town of Kitzbühel, as his greatest feats. He remembers fidgeting in the starting gate of the downhill course known as the Streif in late January as a shroud of mist rolled in, obscuring the finish line below. He had to negotiate just over two-and-a-half kilometres at speeds of up to 140 km/h on what is considered the most demanding course on the World Cup circuit.

"For skiers, Kitzbühel is the Masters, the Indianapolis 500, Wimbledon," explains Podborski. "You're looking down that course, at how hard it is, how fast it is, how treacherous it is, and you're saying to yourself, this is not doable, this is too hard, this is...'"

Crazy?

"Yeah. Crazy."

In their heyday, the Canucks were romanticized as mavericks. But they also were the odd ones out in a sport dominated by Europeans. The Europeans invented alpine skiing and had the best facilities, training, knowledge, and equipment.

Canadian ski culture was a few steps behind. When the four showed up in Europe in the mid-1970s, it was with outdated equipment and a shoestring travel budget. In contrast to some of their jet-setting rivals, the Crazy Canucks travelled from slope to slope in an old Volkswagen Microbus.

They developed a reputation for reckless nonconformity. But their teamwork also set them apart. What the Canadians revolutionized in an individualized sport was a sense of unshakeable commitment to each other and to a shared cause. They studied course lines together and plotted race strategy as a group.

That was unique to skiing at the time, says Read.

"We had success *together*. My first win, at Val d'Isère, we placed four Canadians in the top-ten. So usually, when we celebrated, it was a team thing."

CANADIAN PRESS

CHAMPAGNE
FRANCE

Their celebrations were also legendary. Imagine being young and in Europe, largely out of touch and very much in demand. There were temptations, but Read says the skiing took priority. It had to.

"When you're in your late teens or early twenties, you do some things that leave you shaking your head now, when you're older and looking back," says Read. "You go out too late and pretty soon you're trying to pick yourself up out of a safety net the next day, upside-down and praying nothing's broken."

While there was the odd personality rift — throwing four highly competitive people together for months in foreign lands will do that — they got along "amazingly well," says Podborski.

"I mean, we didn't choose each other. It just happened that way, right? I have always said the reason many very talented athletes don't win at a high level is because the life sucks. Maybe people don't want to hear that, but it's true. You're always travelling. Your clothes are always dirty. The guy in the room with you is either sleeping or awake at the wrong times. It just ... sucks a lot of the time."

In 1990, the immortal Crazy Canucks were confronted with an undefeatable foe — mortality.

Dave Murray died of skin cancer on October 23 of that year. He was just thirty-seven. The following year, Whistler Mountain named a run in his honour; the Dave Murray Downhill is the venue for the 2010 Olympic downhill

Far left: Ken Read celebrates victory at Morzine, France, in 1979. Steve Podborski, to Read's right, also made the podium.

Middle: Read leads the Canadian delegation at the opening ceremony of the 1980 Winter Games at Lake Placid, New York.

Above: The Crazy Canucks celebrate with champagne at a London pub in 1982.

skiing events.

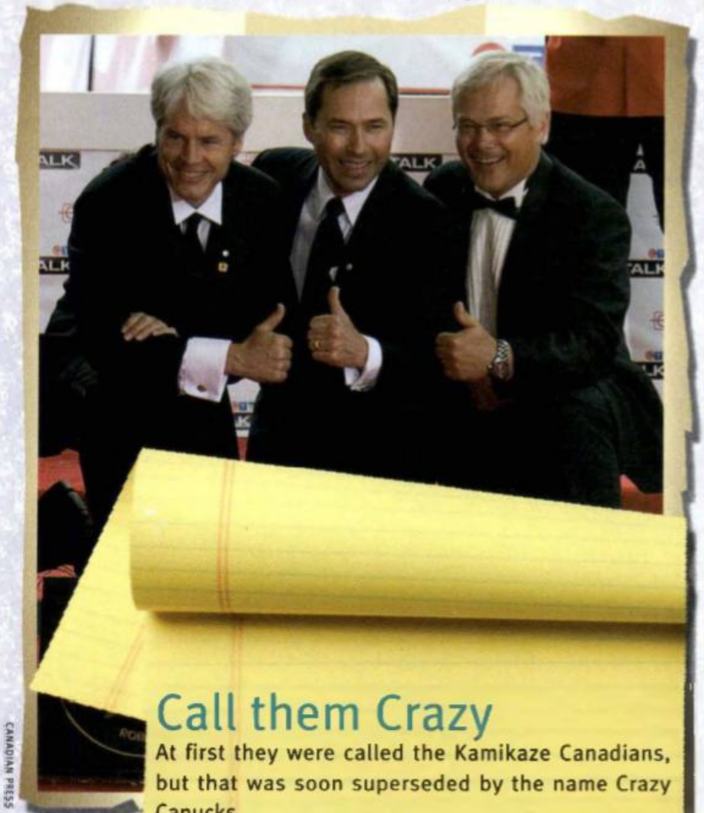
On March 24, 2001, tragedy struck again, when Dave Irwin crashed during a training run for an Export A Skier Cross event at Sunshine Village, Banff, Alberta. He went into a coma, but slowly recovered, eventually founding the Dave Irwin Foundation for Brain Injury.

"They really were two polar-opposite situations, and triggered vastly different emotional reactions," says Read.

"With Dave Murray, we're talking about a three-to-four year struggle that was very painful to watch, but at the same time gave you a sense of the man, the way his courage shone through. Twice he rallied, and we all thought everything was going to be okay, but the third time he went down.

"In Dave Irwin's case, it was: Wham! Get down to the hospital, he might not survive. That was extremely difficult to take in so quickly. What helped, I think, are the lessons you take from competition. In competition, early on you learn that life isn't necessarily fair. In skiing, you understand there are risks.

"With [Dave Murray], I'd rather think of the tremendous amount of living he packed into thirty-seven years, rather than what he lost. What's tragic is that he had so much more to offer, to share with the rest of us."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Above: Crazy Canucks Ken Read, Steve Podborski, and Dave Irwin in Toronto in 2006, during a ceremony inducting them into the Canadian Walk of Fame.

CANADIAN PRESS

Above right: Dave Irwin falls during a 1976 World Cup race in Wengen, Switzerland.

Call them Crazy

At first they were called the Kamikaze Canadians, but that was soon superseded by the name Crazy Canucks.

The moniker was the brainchild of Serge Lang, a French journalist and one of the founders of the World Cup circuit.

Dave Irwin recalls when he first heard it. He'd just crossed the finish line at a downhill in Switzerland and Lang caught his attention.

"Serge was a huge guy, and he looked at me, smiled, and yelled out 'Crazy Canuck!' And it hit me. And hit me. And hit me. I thought 'Wow! That is awesome. That is going to stick.' And here we are, thirty years later, talking about the Crazy Canucks."

For the generation of Canadian skiers trying for glory at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games, the Crazy Canucks remain an inspiration.

"Those guys were like Wayne Gretzky for young Canadian hockey players," says downhiller John "Cowboy" Kucera, who won gold at the 2009 World Championships at Val d'Isère. "You grew up hearing about them, about what they accomplished. Everyone remembers the Crazy Canucks."

The fact that they left such a lasting legacy — their name has even become a kind of national catchphrase — was something the Crazy Canucks did not anticipate.

"The fact that people still come up twenty-five years after I retired and say things like 'Great job, Steve. You guys inspired me,' or 'I loved watching you race,' just blows me away," says Podborski. "I thought that would all vanish within, oh, a couple of years. We'd just be forgotten. By Calgary '88? Pfffff! Done. No way.

"Was I wrong!"

George Johnson is a columnist with the *Calgary Herald*. He'll be in Vancouver to cover his sixth Olympic Games.

To hear a podcast with Dave Irwin, go TheBeaver.ca.

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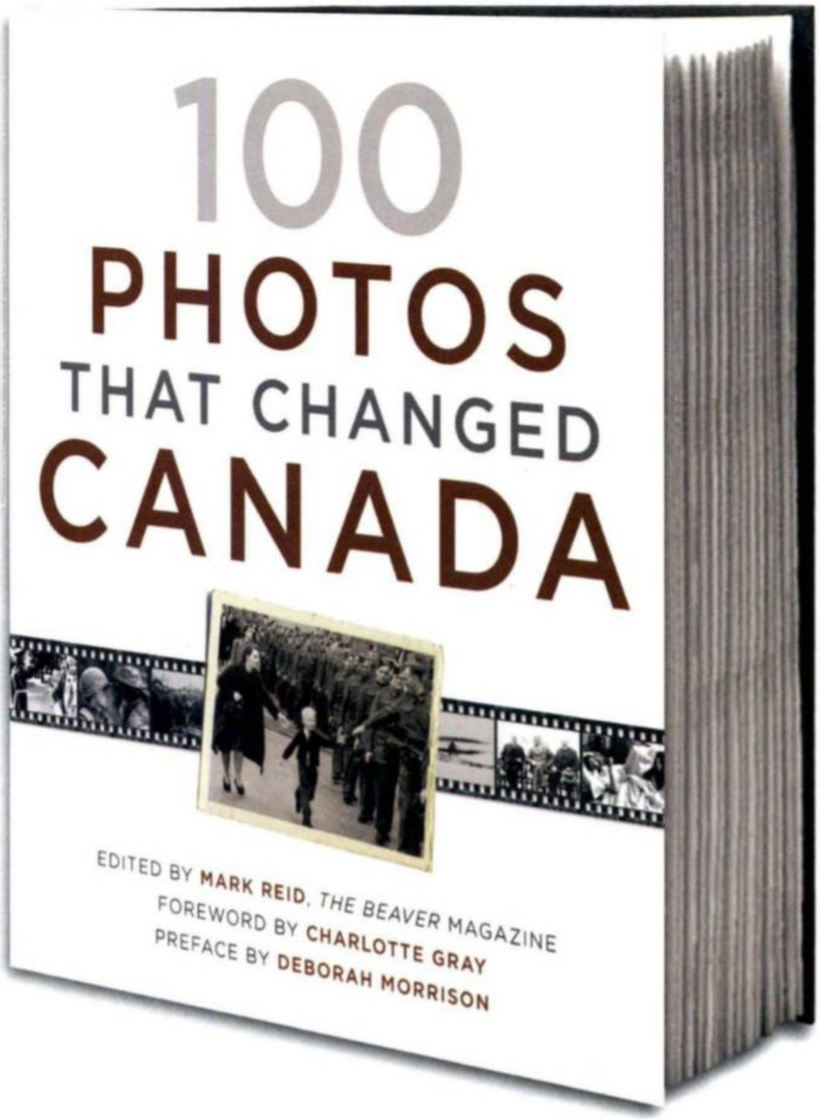
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GETTY

Golden Mome

Montreal 1976

The first Olympics held in Canada had a lasting impact. by Pierre Cayouette

Above: BC Place in Vancouver, site of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games from February 12 to 28, 2010.

By a happy confluence of circumstances I once found myself seated at the same table as two exceptional women — astronaut Julie Payette and former Olympic diving champion Sylvie Bernier, both from Quebec.

Payette — a multilingual musician and engineer — has been to space twice. Bernier — a gold medallist in diving at the 1984 Olympic Games — was the delegation head for Canada at the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

To my great surprise, both confided to me that the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games played a pivotal role in their lives. Indeed, they swore that they probably would not have become who they are today if Montreal had not hosted those Games.

"It was when I saw the marathon runners parading by on the street near my home in Montreal in July 1976 that I understood how far it is possible to excel," recalled Payette, who was twelve at the time. "It was at that moment that I, too, wanted to be part of the parade, just like these Olympic athletes."

As for Bernier, her life-changing moment came while she was attending the diving events at the Games. From that time on she started training. The result? A gold medal eight years later.

"We have underestimated the impact of the Montreal Olympics on the destiny of many athletes and young people," Bernier said. "I'm not the only one to have been inspired by the Olympic athletes that we were able to see in the flesh for the very first time."

The Olympic Stadium in Montreal, 1976.

CANADIAN PRESS

Robyn Perry lights the Olympic flame in Calgary.

CALGARY HERALD

McMahon Stadium in Calgary, 1988.

CALGARY HERALD

Opening ceremonies in Montreal.

CANADIAN PRESS

nts

As the world's eyes turn to Vancouver, we look back at the highs and lows of the Montreal and Calgary Olympics.

Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau unveils a model of proposed Olympic Stadium in 1975.

CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian athletes in Calgary wore cowboy hats as part of their official uniform.

Too often when we think of the 1976 Games it is only the elephantine cost of the Olympic Stadium that comes to mind. It is true that the installations cost three times as much as planned. And it's impossible to suppress a sardonic smile when viewing the black-and-white archival images in which Mayor Jean Drapeau promises Montrealers that the Games "will not cost taxpayers a cent."

Yet the Montreal Games have left all Canadians with a legacy that is much more far-reaching than the concrete monument that now stands largely unoccupied.

In its role as an extension of Expo 67, the 1976 Games opened up Quebec and Canada to the world. Ambitious and a visionary, Drapeau wished to turn Montreal into an international hub that its citizens could be proud of. His gambit paid off.

In fact, all of Canada felt great pride when the Olympic flame was lit on July 17, 1976, in the presence of the Queen, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and hundreds of other dignitaries.

The event is remembered fondly, despite many obstacles: building delays and union confrontations that marred the final months preceding the Games; a massive boycott by close to thirty African countries; the imposing security (16,000 police officers and soldiers) deemed necessary by the tragedy in Munich at the 1972 Games; at least a dozen cases of athletes using drugs to enhance their performance. As host to 6,000 athletes from ninety-two countries, as well as the world press, Montreal felt like a great international capital.

Although it was disappointing that Canada, as host country, failed to win a gold medal, the Games were an opportunity for Canadians to widen their sporting horizons. Who knew anything about gymnastics before seeing the exploits of the young Romanian Nadia Comaneci? Her score of a perfect 10.0 on the asymmetrical bars remains one of the greatest feats in the history of sport. In the following years, gymnastic associations proliferated. Quebec abounded with little Nadias.

Through the Promethean exploits of the Cuban sprinter Alberto Juantorena, the Finnish distance runner Lasse Virén, and the Canadian high jumper Greg Joy , Montrealers learned to appreciate athletics and other sports with which they had not been very familiar. It is not by chance that, in the years following the Games, tens of thousands of Quebeckers have been converted to the virtues of running and have flocked to register themselves for the Montreal Marathon.

In other words, the splash made by the Montreal Games had a huge — and often hidden — ripple effect on all kinds of people.

A reporter with *L'actualité* magazine since 1999, Pierre Cayouette previously worked for fifteen years at *Le Devoir*. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including the Grand Prix de l'Association québecoise des éditeurs de magazines for best story and the National Magazine Award for best feature. Cayouette, who lives in Quebec, is also a biographer and novelist.

Calgary 1988

Wind, warm weather, and weird antics marked the Calgary Games. by Rita Mingo

It's been almost twenty-two years since the Olympic torch was first lit atop the Calgary Tower. The goal was to make the Calgary XV Olympic Winter Games one for the record books. In many ways, they were — but not necessarily in ways that were intended.

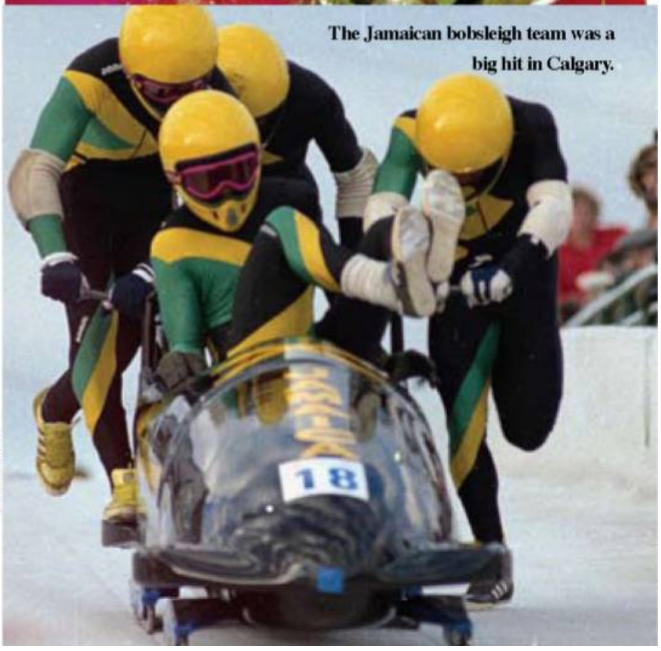
Calgary was an Olympics of contrasts — temperamental weather, heartwarming performances, a disappointing medal count, a legacy of world-class facilities, and some athletes who were laugh-out-loud funny.

First, the weather.

Calgary's snow-eating chinooks — warm winds that are typically a godsend to people in the foothills — were unwel-

Canadian figure skater Elizabeth Manley celebrates her unexpected silver medal win.

CALGARY HERALD



The Jamaican bobsleigh team was a big hit in Calgary.

CALGARY HERALD

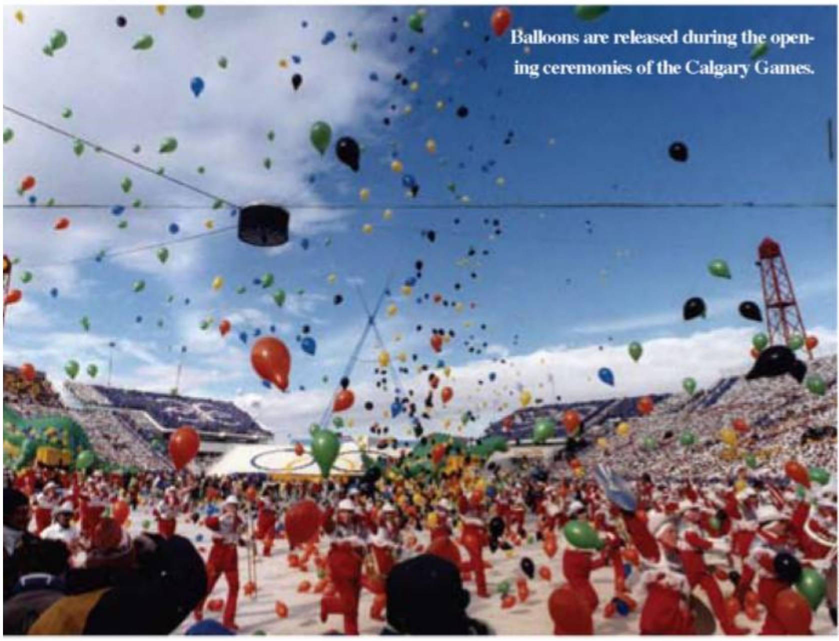
come visitors to the 1988 Games. Temperatures climbed to the upper teens Celsius, wreaking havoc at outdoor venues.

It wasn't that organizers didn't anticipate this; snow-making machines were operating at full speed.

"We expected the worst weather possible, from minus twenty-six to plus sixteen degrees Celsius, and we had huge amounts of snow made at all venues," explained Frank King, chairman of the organizing committee for the Calgary Games. "But we hadn't prepared for one thing: the wind. There's no way you can stop a forty-kilometre side wind."

A total of sixteen events were postponed, sometimes for as long as a week. The phenomenal Finnish ski jumper Matti Nykänen, who won three golds in Calgary, described the wind as his worst opponent. One ski jumper was blown into a camera tower. And bobsleigh competitors had to show true grit when sand blew onto their track. Despite the setbacks, none of the events were cancelled.

This was the year when cocky young Italian skier Alberto Tomba vowed to shine on the slopes of Mount Nakiska — and he did, winning a pair of golds in the slalom and giant slalom.



Balloons are released during the opening ceremonies of the Calgary Games.

CALGARY HERALD

It was also the year in which the stars had to share the spotlight with a host of lovable misfits who, despite their failures, gained fame for their can-do attitudes. British ski jumper Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards — a bespectacled plasterer by trade — finished dead last in the 70-metre and 90-metre jumps. The indomitable "worst ski jumper in the world" was a fan favourite.

The Jamaican national bobsleigh team enjoyed equal fame. The spunky Jamaicans, members of that Caribbean island country's military, lost control of their sled and crashed. They did improve as the Games progressed, however, and later became the focus of the movie *Cool Runnings*.

Among the Canadian athletes, Brian Orser got most of the attention before the Games, but it was Elizabeth Manley who ended up stealing Canadians' hearts.

Manley, an exuberant young figure skater, was not seen as a contender. She had a reputation for coming up short in major events. Yet she performed an electrifying free skate, surprising everyone by finishing second to Katarina Witt of East Germany, in what was supposed to have been a battle between Witt and American skater Debi Thomas.

Manley, who recently joined CTV as a figure skating commentator for the 2010 Winter Games, recalls the exuberance of the crowds as she left the Saddledome in the early hours of the morning:

"I was sitting in the back seat of [my brother's] little Toyota, and there were thousands of people, and they were yelling my name, 'Manley! Manley!' And they were going crazy! I realized then and there what I had done for Canada. It was like I'd won the Stanley Cup!"

Meanwhile, Orser, the reigning world champion coming into the Games, won silver as well. But Mr. Triple Axel had a nation's expectations for gold weighing on his slender shoulders; a second-place finish was ultimately a disappointment.

Other Canadian medallists included skier Karen Percy-Lowe, who won two bronze medals, and ice dancers Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall, who won Canada's other bronze.

Canada's medal count of two silver, three bronze, and zero gold was disappointing in that it joined the former Yugoslavia as one of two host countries not to have won an Olympic winter gold medal at home.

Despite the lack of gold, great legacies resulted. One of them was the creation of several high-quality sporting venues.

The Olympic Saddledome, since renamed the Pengrowth Saddledome, is now home to the NHL's Calgary Flames. The Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary hosts speed skating World Cup events and world championships. Canada Olympic Park attracts international sledding athletes for year-round training.

"How many facilities did we have when we started the bid process?" organizer Frank King asks rhetorically. "The answer is zero. They're still here, almost thirty years after we put in that first bid."

Rita Mingo is a freelance writer in Calgary. She covered figure skating at the 1988 Winter Olympics for the *Calgary Sun*.

For more on past Olympics in Canada, go to TheBeaver.ca.

The French Connection

If Canada owns the 2010 podium in speed skating, it will be thanks to an investment made decades ago in Quebec. by Jean-François Bégin

Quebec speed skater Gaétan Boucher, now 51, with his four Olympic medals.

CHRISTIAN FLEURY

In the history of Olympic Canadian sport, it is a defining moment.

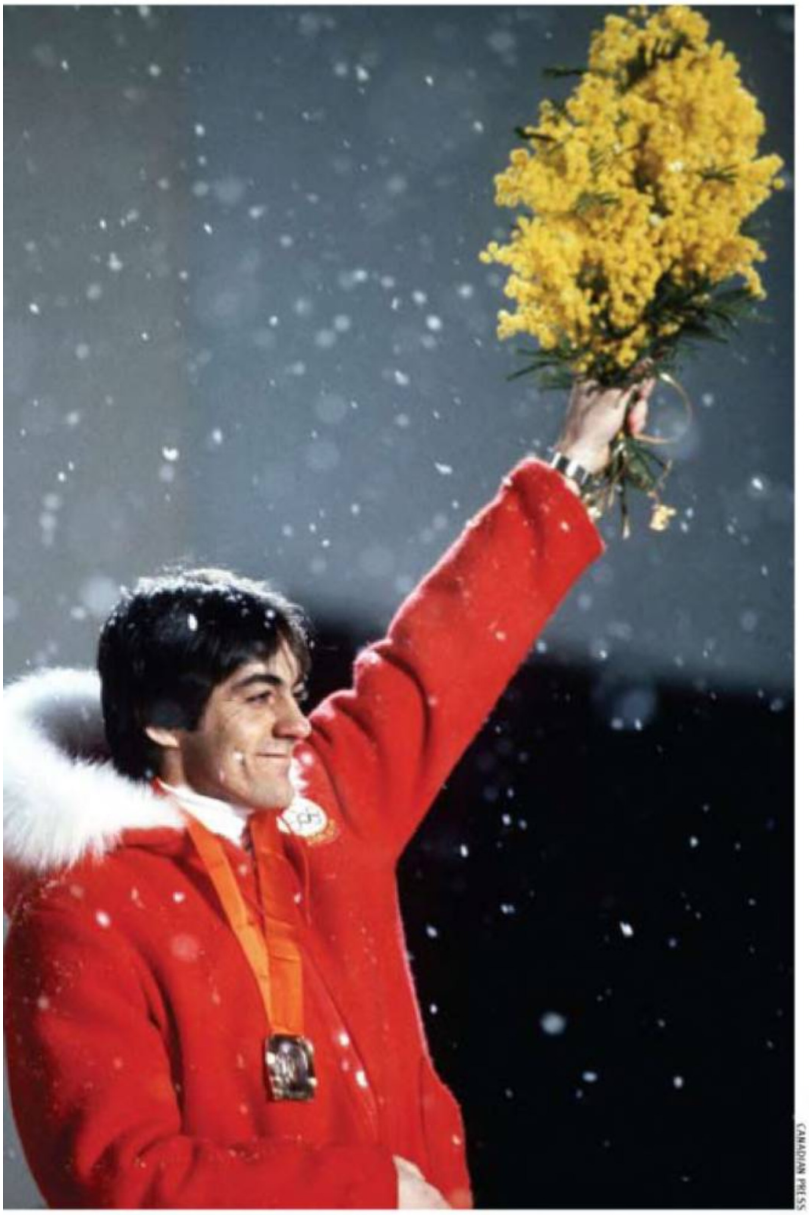
Sarajevo, February 16, 1984 — the ninth day of the XIV Winter Olympic Games. The fine snow falling on the Zetra speed skating track has stopped, just in time for the 1,500-metre race. On the starting line, Gaétan Boucher dreams of a third medal, after having won gold (for the 1,000 metres) and bronze (for the 500 metres) over the previous days. To win, he will have to beat the time of his great rival, the Soviet Sergei Khlebnikov, who just made 1:58:83.

Few people expect Boucher to win. And, in fact, things begin poorly for the Quebec skater. He makes a false start. He retakes his place by the side of East Germany's Andreas Ehrig and plants his skates into the hard ice of the oval. The starting pistol fires again; this time, they're off. Boucher will say later that he did not feel his normal level of calm, but his times do not bear witness to this. After 300 metres, he holds a quarter-second lead on Khlebnikov, a gap that climbs to one second by mid-race.

Exhausted, Boucher launches himself forward towards the finish line. The time that he sees on the indicator scoreboard, 1:59:41, disappoints him bitterly ... that is, until he hears the cries of joy of the Canadian fans. The time displayed is that of Ehrig, not his own. Boucher has completed the race in 1:58:36 — almost half a second faster than Khlebnikov. The twenty-five-year-old athlete claps his hands above his head to signify his joy.

With this gold medal, Boucher becomes the first Canadian in history to climb onto the podium three times during a single Olympic Games.

Boucher's achievement, coming four years after his silver medal win for the 1,000-metre race at the Lake Placid Games, is impressive indeed — especially considering that this young marketing student will wrap things up two weeks later in the Netherlands by becoming the all round world champion.



CANADIAN PRESS

Gaétan Boucher at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, where he won two golds and a bronze.

"This had an explosive effect right across Canada," explains Jean Grenier, second-in-command of the Canadian delegation to Sarajevo. "From then on, the mentality changed. We stopped thinking that because we were Canadian a fifteenth or thirtieth place was okay. Gaétan's medals were a turning point."

Adds Boucher: "What happened is that in speed skating we put in more effort and resources and we took the sport more seriously. Since then, other sports have been doing this, too. Nowadays, winning fifteen medals at the Games is nothing for Canada."

Boucher's results in 1984 are a testament to the extraordinary determination of this exceptional athlete, who had suffered a serious ankle fracture eleven months before the Games. But they would never have been achieved without the prior emergence of a strong speed skating culture in Quebec, which became, in just a few short years, a fertile spawning ground for the national team.

Let us turn back the clock to the mid-1950s, when Gaspé native Maurice Gagné, who was to become Gaétan Boucher's first trainer, moved to Quebec City with his brothers Pierre and Benoit.

A cyclist of some renown — Maurice Gagné represented Canada at the Commonwealth Games in 1958 and 1962 — he took up "long blade" skating to stay in shape in the winter. He won the Canadian open championship at his first attempt in 1957. He went on to hold the short track title for the next fifteen years. Nevertheless, speed skating remained a marginalized sport in La Belle Province. Outside of the clutch of converts who gathered around Gagné, the rare bastions of the sport were the English-speaking enclaves on the island of Montreal, assembled under the Quebec Speed Skating Association (QSSA).

The first Canada Games, held in Quebec during Canada's centennial in 1967, gave new impetus to this sporting class. A 400-metre outdoor track was constructed behind the Patro Roc-Amadour, a community centre situated not far from the small bungalow where Gagné still lives today.

"The skate track was ready a year ahead of the Games," says Gagné. "That gave us the idea to train the local youth, so I went to see the sports director of the towns and cities of the region to sell them on the idea of this fine sport."

In the fall of 1969, he created the Speed Skating Club of Sainte-Foy, on the western outskirts of Quebec City, while his brothers did the same thing in Charlesbourg and Quebec City itself. Among the first skaters to register for the Sunday skating sessions at the newly constructed arena at Sainte-Foy was a certain Gaétan Boucher, aged eleven at the time. Among the group of about twenty skaters, Boucher showed very quickly his extraordinary talent. He took the Canadian long track title and held it from his second season onward.

"I was lucky," Boucher says. "What makes an athlete develop is competition. And right away I was up against some excellent skaters, both within the club and from Quebec City."

This production of stiff competition was not the fruit of chance. During the first season the Sainte-Foy Club was open, the QSSA was dissolved and replaced by La Fédération de patinage de vitesse du Québec (FPVQ), presided over by Jean Grenier, father of Louis Grenier, Boucher's teammate.

A former military man, a doctor, and the director general of a large Quebec hospital, Jean Grenier injected a lively dynamism into the small world of speed skating. At his first meeting of the Canadian Amateur Speed Skating Association — held in Winnipeg in the spring of 1970 — he announced that Quebec, which had only a few clubs then, would soon have between thirty and fifty.

"They tried to stop themselves from laughing at me," he recalls. "I had just done my MBA and was thinking big. Our objective was to have representatives at the world championship finals within five years."

In fact, by the mid-1970s, Quebec had about forty clubs. This was in part because of additional funds becoming available for amateur sport due to the Montreal Olympics, and in part because the birth of the Quebec Games fed regional rivalries and stimulated the birth of new skating clubs.

Soon, Quebecers dominated the board of the Canadian skating federation.

"We are probably the only executive board of a Canadian federation in history to have run things in French over several years!" said Grenier.

Quebec also dominated the national team. In 1976, Gaétan Boucher, then seventeen, had been the only Quebecer on the eight-person team that represented Canada at the Innsbruck Games. Eight years later, in Sarajevo, the entire Canadian speed skating team — including the great Sylvie Daigle and Natalie Grenier, the daughter of Jean Grenier — came from Quebec.

Speed skating was suddenly *the* sport in Quebec.

Quebec's domination continued at the Calgary Games in 1988, where thirteen of the country's sixteen skaters were from Quebec. But these games, paradoxically, would cause the end of Quebec's speed skating golden age, at least on the long track.

In Calgary, skaters competed on North America's first covered skating track. Twenty years later, the Olympic Oval continues to attract speed skaters from across Canada and other parts of the world, who go there to train year-round on what is dubbed "the fastest ice in the world."

"Today, to get anywhere in long track, you have to go west," admits Grenier.

Quebec still has no covered track, and skaters who stay in Quebec are condemned to less-than-ideal training conditions.

The centre of gravity for long track skating has migrated to Calgary. Catriona LeMay Doan, an Olympic gold medallist who broke fifteen world records during her career; Jeremy Wotherspoon, who is the World Cup's most decorated male skater; and Cindy Klassen, who took home a record five Olympic medals from Turin in 2006, all trained in Calgary. And all were born in Western Canada.

However, Quebec has become an epicentre for short track skating, which made its competitive debut at the Albertville Olympics in 1992. Today, Quebecers represent seventy-five percent of the national short track team.

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Cindy Klassen, shown with the five medals she won at Turin in 2006, also won an Olympic bronze in 2002. She is the most decorated Olympian in Canadian history.

For Robert Dubreuil of the FPVQ, the arrival of short track skating as an Olympic sport marks nothing less than a new lease on life for speed skating in Quebec.

"It's rejuvenated us in an incredible way. It was a bit like freestyle skiing — a new, dynamic sport that the population can understand with ease, in which Quebec could figure as pioneers."

With twenty medals won by Quebecers to date, it's something that inspires hope for Vancouver in 2010.

Jean-François Bégin is a sports columnist at *La Presse* in Montreal. He will be in Vancouver to cover his third Olympics.

Et Cetera

Speedskating in Canada, 1854–1981: A Chronological History by John Hurdis, with Susan Gambles. Canadian Printco, Montreal, 1980.

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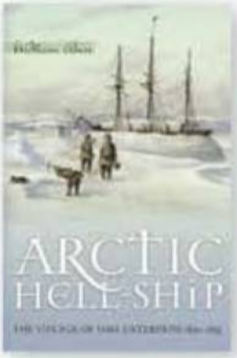

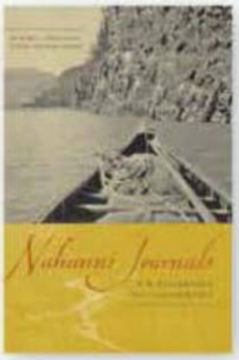

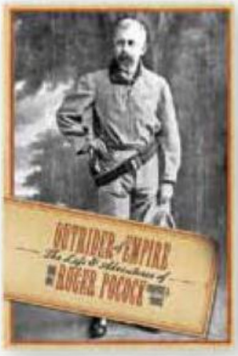

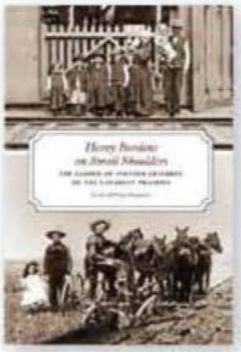

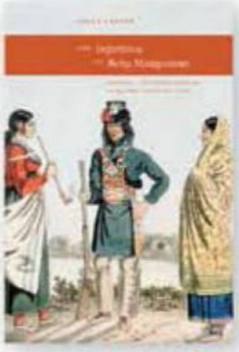

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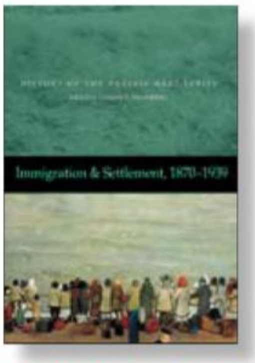

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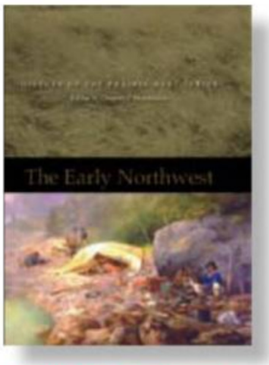

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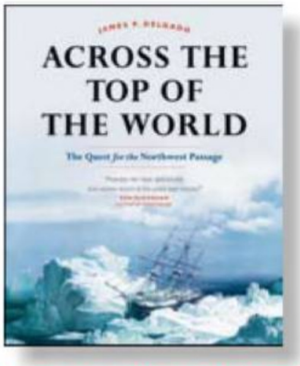
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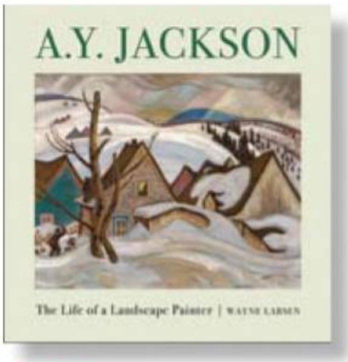

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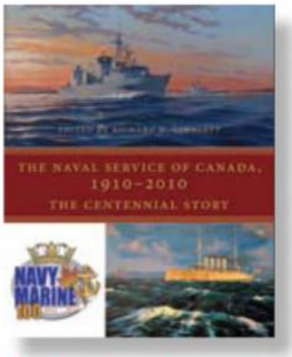

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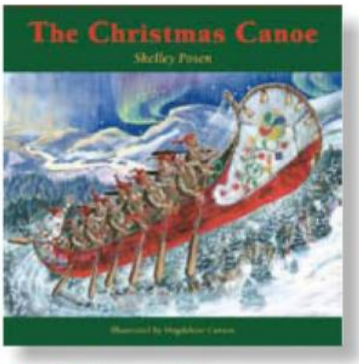

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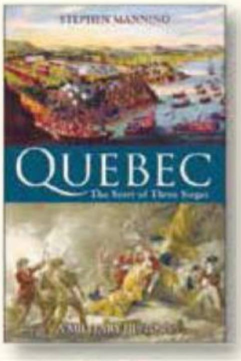

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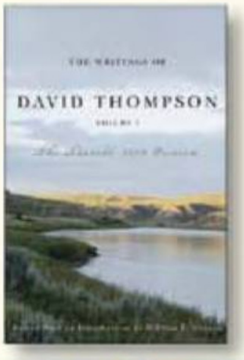

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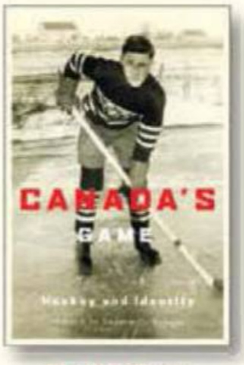

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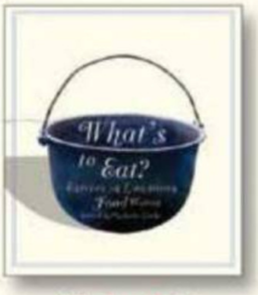

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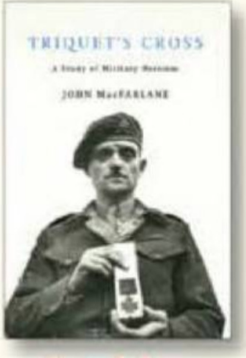

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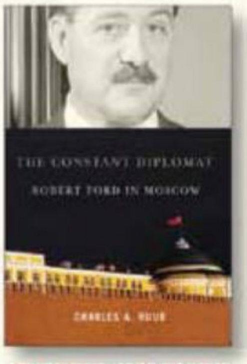

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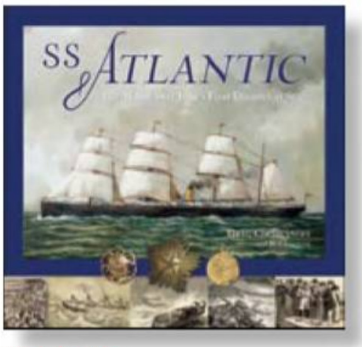

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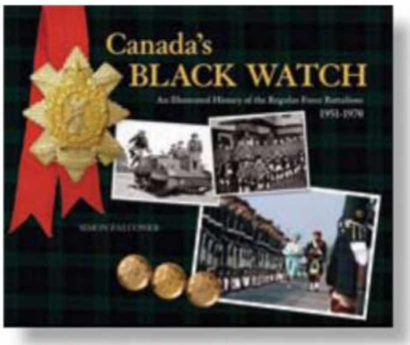

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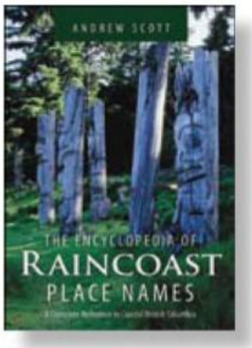

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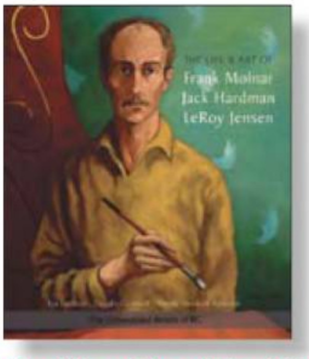

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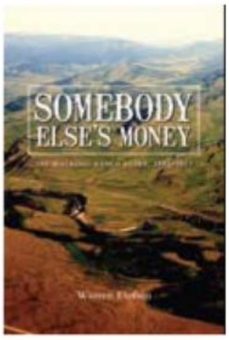

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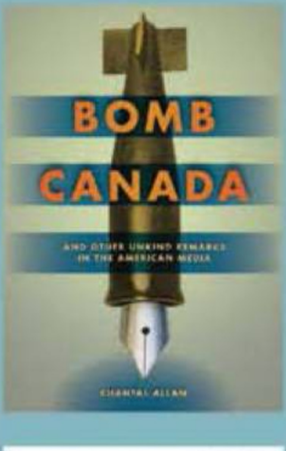
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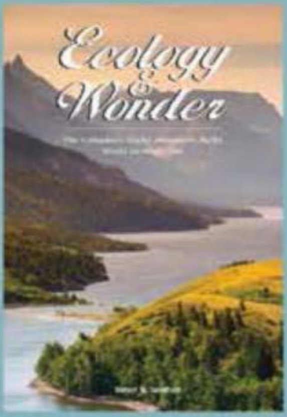
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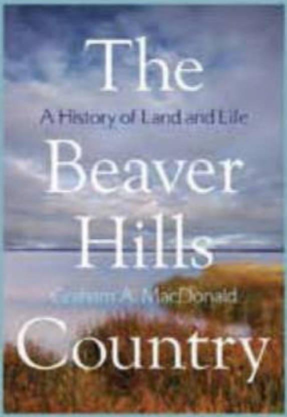
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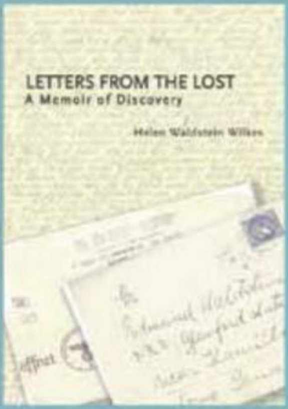
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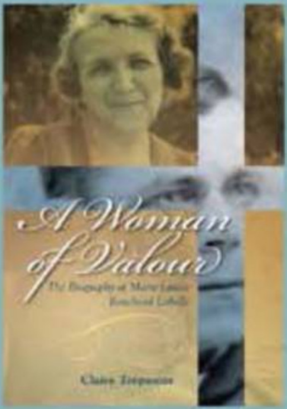
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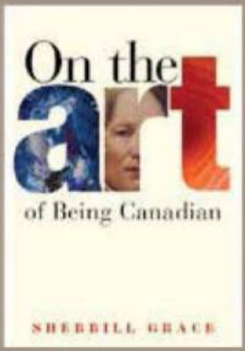
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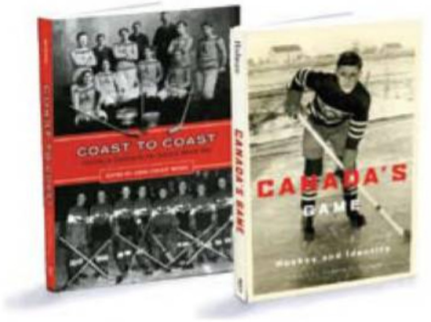

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McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 2009
236 pp., $24.95 paperback

On cold winter afternoons, my brother and I would often head to the frozen pond behind my grandparents' house for a game of shinny. Using frozen cow manure as a puck, we fought a never-ending sibling grudge match on ice. If we lost the puck in the reeds, it didn't matter — there was plenty more manure to be had.

Sometimes at night I would head back to the pond and just skate under the stars. Out there in the farmlands of rural Nova Scotia, the Milky Way seemed to glow with the light of millions of stars. It's a memory that sticks with me, three decades later.

Over the years, I, like many Canadians, have fallen somewhat out of love with hockey. Check that — professional hockey. It's become too corporate, too mercenary, too ... well, American. After reading a pair of new books on hockey, I'm convinced that I'm not alone in my sentiments.

Coast to Coast: Hockey in Canada to the Second World War, edited by John Chi-Kit Wong, and *Canada's Game: Hockey and Identity*, edited by Andrew C. Holman, are both collections of academic musings on various aspects of hockey and its influence on the Canadian identity.

The arguments and analyses in both books are sound, and I can't question the various writers' enthusiasm for breaking the game down into a series of motivations, metaphors, and meanings. After all, it's what academics do.

But do essays such as "Confronting a Compelling Other: The Summit Series and the Nostalgic (Trans)Formation of Canadian Identity" truly get to the heart of our collective passion for the game?

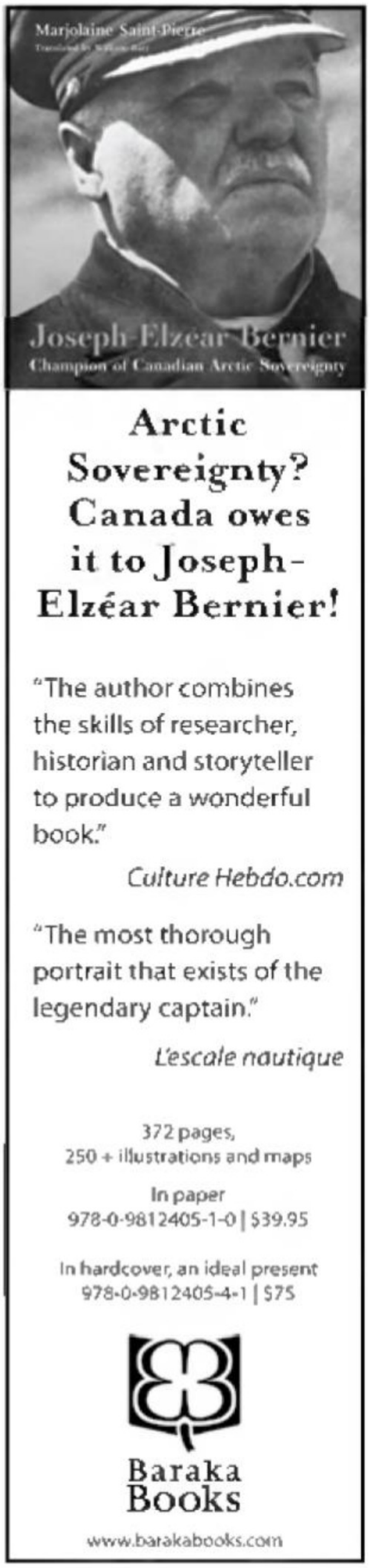
Part of me — the part that remains a seven-year-old boy skating under the stars — wonders whether the magic of the game is somehow lost amid all this analysis.

Sometimes, the secrets of the game can only be revealed by experiencing an end-to-end rush, by gripping a stick and letting it rip, and by shouting, "he shoots, he scores! **— M.R.**

Immodest & SENSATIONAL
150 YEARS OF CANADIAN WOMEN IN SPORT
M. ANN HALL

Immodest and Sensational:
150 Years of Canadian Women in Sport
by M. Ann Hall
James Lorimer and Company Ltd., Toronto, 2008
96 pp., illus., $19.95 paperback

The most interesting part of *Immodest and Sensational* is the stuff few people today remember. After all, who recalls the madcap marathon walking matches in which women competed in the 1870s? Or the scantily clad Louise Armaindo of Ste-Clet, Quebec, the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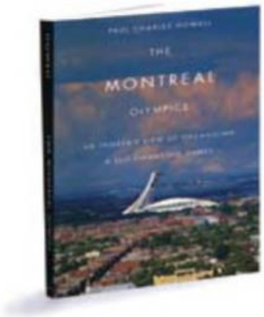
"champion female bicycle rider of the world" in the 1880s? Or 1907 tennis champ Lois Moyes Bickle, who had a mean serve and urged women players to learn to hit harder?

M. Ann Hall, a professor emeritus of physical education at the University of Alberta, reminds us that back in the 1920s and 1930s, Canadian women had a robust presence in sports like hockey, softball, basketball, tennis, speed skating, marathon swimming, and track, with clubs and leagues all over the country.

But somehow, in the aftermath of the Second World War, it became uncool for women to sweat or show muscle. Despite intense pressure to put their lipstick on straight and keep their coifed hair in place, athletes like marathon swimmer Marilyn Bell continued to dazzle crowds in the 1950s.

This concise book provides a good overview and is nicely illustrated. My only frustration was in not being able to find any information about the interesting cover photograph. **— N.O.**

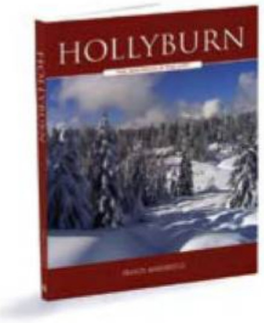


The Montreal Olympics: An Insider's View of Organizing a Self-financing Games
by Paul Charles Howell
McGill-Queens University Press, Montreal, 2009
248 pp., $44.95 hardcover

Paul Charles Howell provides a unique perspective on the 1976 Olympic Summer Games, recounting his experience as a core member of the organizing team responsible for the Olympic build in Montreal.

Athletic moments are mostly absent from the book, with sentiments of pride and emotion reserved for triumphs over timelines, budgets, and absurd political interruptions.

Howell's principal goal is to set the record straight, paying tribute to the men and women who were so fiercely committed to making these Games about the development of sport and the needs of the athletes. It is an interesting case study in corporate planning and project management, providing the business-minded with some Olympic-sized examples of the value of strategy, communications, and business development. **— D.M.**



Hollyburn: The Mountain and the City
by Francis Mansbridge
Ronsdale Press, Vancouver, 2008
240 pp., illus., $24.95 paperback

Frances Mansbridge's book *Hollyburn: The Mountain and the City* tells the fascinating history of the area located above West Vancouver leading to Hollyburn Peak. Hollyburn has been a popular destination for skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and climbers since the 1920s. Now part of Cypress Provincial Park, the area is known for its fantastic trails and spectacular views.

Mansbridge clearly illustrates, through her words and with the many photos included in the book, that Hollyburn is an area steeped in history — from the first attempts at logging in the 1870s, to use by early outdoor enthusiasts, to the community that has grown there over the years.

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There have been conflicting views about how the vicinity should be developed. Mansbridge explains how groups such as Friends of Cypress Provincial Park have attempted to preserve the area's topography and wildlife.

The book narrates the tragic clear-cutting of the old-growth forests in the 1960s and 1970s. It also tells of some of the great names in sports who have honed their athletic abilities at Hollyburn and about the many sporting events that have been held there. Mansbridge identifies the 2010 Olympic events that will take place at Hollyburn.

Most interesting are the pictures showing vintage log cabins and portraying some of the many colourful characters who inhabited this region. Sadly, the book's history of the district seems to start at European inhabitation and makes scant mention of the region's First Nations people.

However, for the most part the book is very thorough, and it will certainly make readers want to pay a visit to the district — whether to take in an Olympic event or for outdoor pursuits of their own. **— B.T.**

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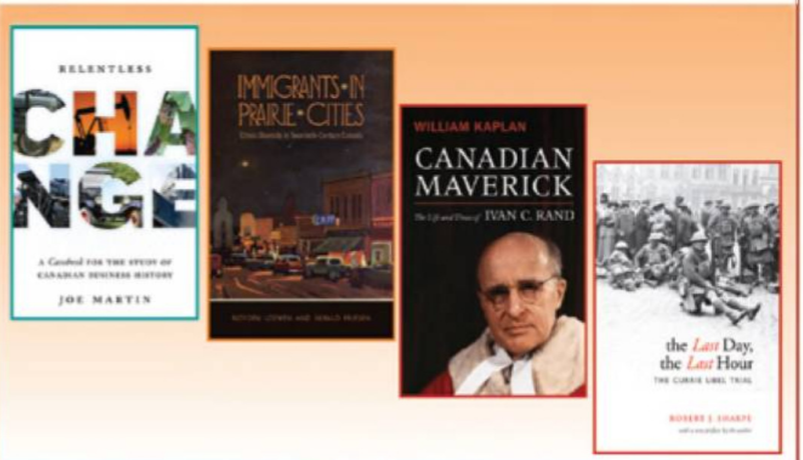

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by Robert J. Sharpe

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Christopher Moore

Tom Longboat's legacy

Canada's aboriginal athletes have a rich, if largely unknown, history.

There is a long tradition of native excellence in sport; however, this history remains largely unwritten.

— Janice Forsyth

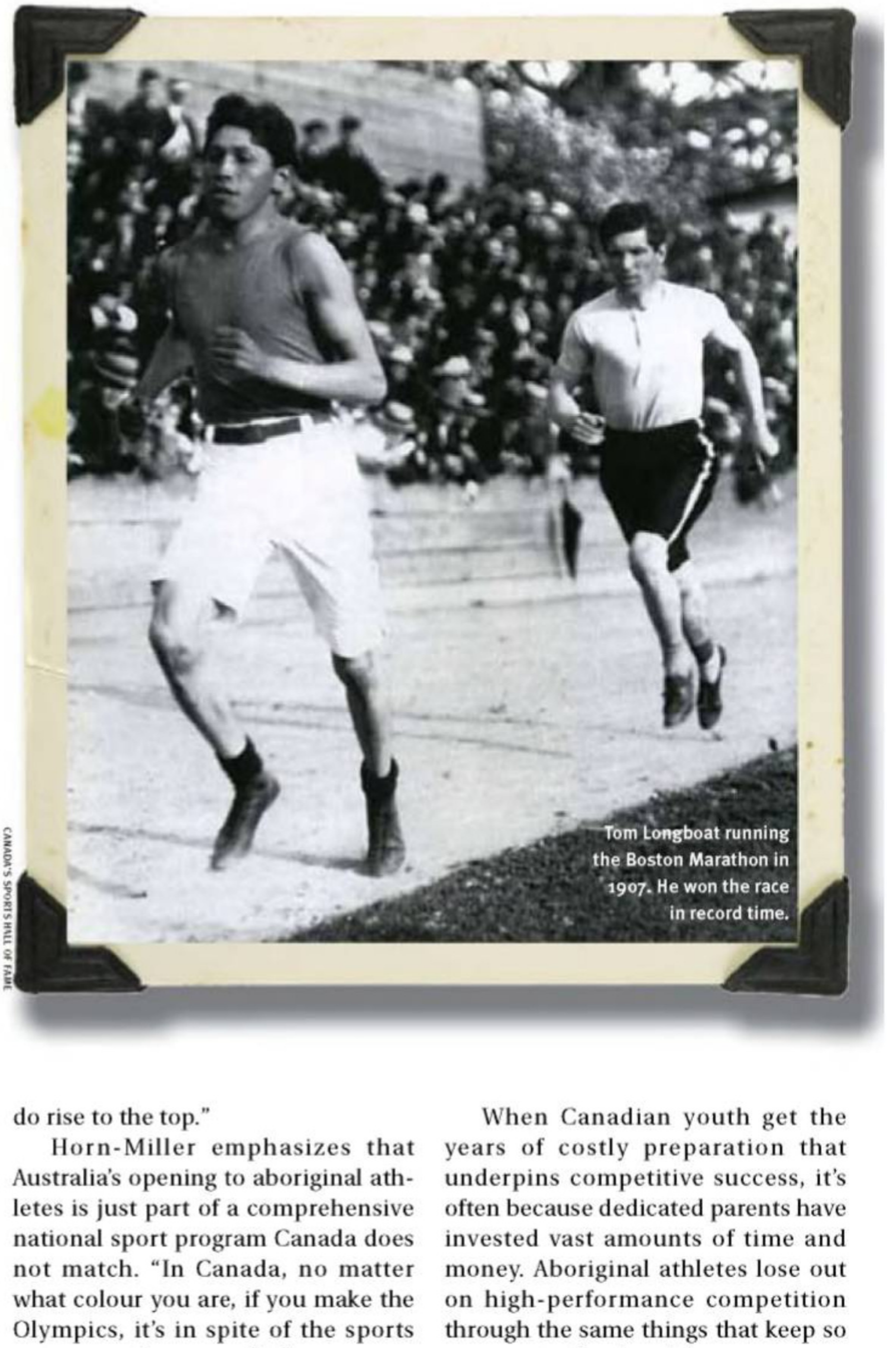
When the Olympics Games come to Whistler-Vancouver, Canada's aboriginal peoples will be hard to miss. A mighty Inukshuk symbolizes the Games. The ceremonies will feature native drummers and dancers, and elders in button blankets and eagle feathers. These will be powerful signals to the world of the aboriginal presence at the heart of Canada.

But their presence on the field will be less evident. Just two aboriginal Canadians competed in Beijing and only one in Athens. There were some contenders for Vancouver, but at the time of writing Canada's Olympic team had not been finalized.

Sport and physical prowess are deeply valued in aboriginal cultures. But when the Games begin, the First Nations may be myth and symbol more than flesh and blood, in high-performance sport as in too many other aspects of Canadian life.

Does it have to be that way? Waneek Horn-Miller, a Mohawk from Kanesatake, Quebec, was co-captain of the Canadian Olympic water polo team at Sydney in 2000. Recently she told me about Australia's experience.

"It's a similar history there of marginalization and poverty, a small rural population disconnected from society," she said. "But they have an aboriginal-athlete identification program, and at Beijing they had eight aboriginal athletes, and at my Olympics I think there were fifteen. They do not reserve places; it's entirely competitive. Given the chance, they do rise to the top."



Tom Longboat running the Boston Marathon in 1907. He won the race in record time.

CANADA'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Horn-Miller emphasizes that Australia's opening to aboriginal athletes is just part of a comprehensive national sport program Canada does not match. "In Canada, no matter what colour you are, if you make the Olympics, it's in spite of the sports system, not because of it."

When Canadian youth get the years of costly preparation that underpins competitive success, it's often because dedicated parents have invested vast amounts of time and money. Aboriginal athletes lose out on high-performance competition through the same things that keep so many out of universities, careers, or corner offices — poverty, isolation, racism, and a systemic lack of ways to surmount those roadblocks.

There's no easy fix for that. Janice Forsyth, an aboriginal track athlete who now teaches at the University of Alberta, says, "symbolically, the success of an athlete can give hope to our communities. But given the really dire needs that communities have, it may not be elite sport that matters most."

Forsyth credits her parents for supporting her sports career, too. But a key moment for her was competing for the first time in NAIG, the North American Indigenous Games, in 1995. "That really was a great change for me, my first experience with indigenous sports rather than mainstream activities."

The experience helped make Forsyth a historian of indigenous sport. She has written about NAIG and also about the Tom Longboat Awards, named for the Onondaga distance runner from Oshweken, Ontario, who was the greatest marathoner of his era and a 1908 Canadian Olympian. Longboat died in 1949. Since 1951, the award has been the premier honour for indigenous athletes in Canada.

Forsyth knows the award honoured almost no women for years. At first it promoted those who assimilated into mainstream sport over those in indigenous programs. Still, national and regional Longboat Awards have saluted hundreds of aboriginal athletes — Forsyth's team is still trying to assemble the complete list. "It is all aboriginal-run and community-based, and it does not hit the mainstream media. But — the excellence the awards pay tribute to!"

Recipients have included Charles Smallface, Willie Littlechild, Vicky Rice — athletes unknown to most of us.

Forsyth salutes many aboriginal sport programs across the country, including the camp Horn-Miller runs at McGill University's First Peoples House. "We love sport, even if we are not into school, and this is a great way to connect the two," says Horn-Miller. "An education will outlast any sports career."

Both these athlete-scholars warn against expecting an aboriginal breakthrough at these Olympics. Horn-Miller says, "I'm proud to be an Olympian, but I'm not proud to be an anomaly. I know the talent is there in our communities, but the support is not."

Christopher Moore comments in every issue of *The Beaver*.

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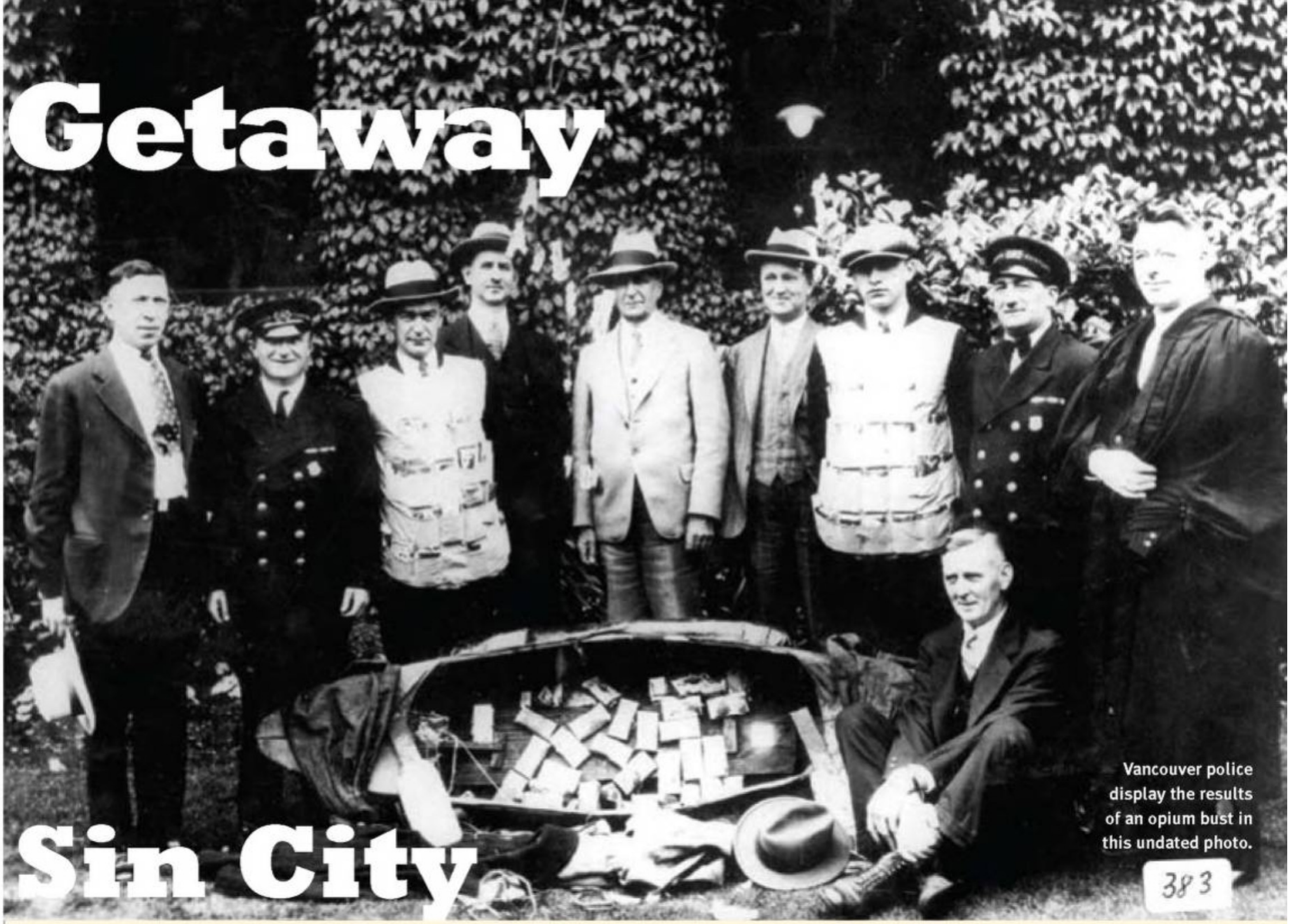


Vancouver police display the results of an opium bust in this undated photo.

Nelle Oosterom investigates the historic underbelly of Vancouver's notorious Downtown Eastside.

Chris Mathieson peers into a dark, narrow alley where a handful of people are going about the business of shooting up, being high, or just hanging out, with their shopping carts piled high with their worldly goods.

"I don't take people here on every tour," says Mathieson as he offers a friendly wave to the people in the alley. "They have a right to their privacy. We are walking through their living room."

Having determined they are open to having visitors, Mathieson, executive director of the Vancouver Police Museum, leads me deep into the home of the homeless — one of several stops on the museum's popular Sins of the City tour.

This city's poorest, most desperate and drug-infested neighbourhood may not be first on the list of attractions the average visitor — Olympic or otherwise — wants to see. But an adventurous history buff sees it differently. After all, this is where the city of Vancouver was born.

If you want to know Vancouver from its roots, you tear yourself away from the gleaming glass and steel skyscrapers and you walk a few blocks east, where sushi gives way to soup kitchens, brew pubs give way to Canada's first safe injection site, and relentless development bumps up against determined community activism.

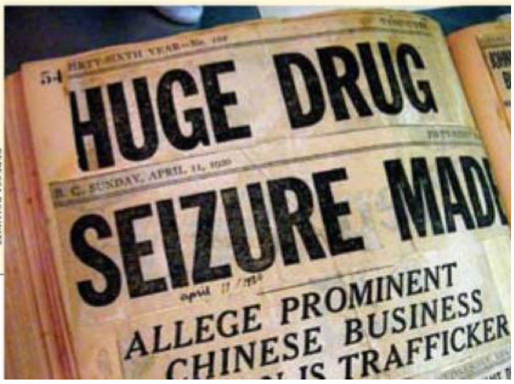
"This building," says Mathieson, pointing to a century-old structure in the alley covered with graffiti opposing its demolition, "is going to be a condo."

It's as difficult to imagine a shiny new condo development in this grimy alley's future as it is to imagine its past as a bustling Chinatown market alive with the squawking of fowl, the shouts of gamblers, and the drift of opium smoke.

The first Chinese came to British Columbia in 1858 by way of California, lured by the gold fields. They were followed in the 1880s by a much larger wave when Canada recruited 17,000 labourers from southern China to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. Many stayed to settle on the railway's final stop — Vancouver — where they established what is today the largest historic Chinatown in Canada.

At the time, many Caucasian residents resented the influx of Chinese. On September 7, 1907, the city erupted in violence as a white mob attacked residents and smashed storefronts in Chinatown and Japantown. A sidewalk mosaic commemorating the riot is now located at Gore and Powell streets.

Interestingly enough, the aftermath of the race riot led to Canada's first drug laws. A federal inquiry into the riot was led by then Deputy Labour Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, who was alarmed at the extent of the opium trade. Opium



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The Vancouver Police Museum is located in a former coroner's building.

was from then on illegal.

"Ironically, Vancouver, seen today as the centre for drug decriminalization, is also the birthplace of Canada's drug laws," said Mathieson.

Back in 1908, when the new opium law came into effect, Vancouver police officers suddenly had a lot of work on their hands. Raids on drug dens forced opium buyers and sellers underground — literally. Some shops in Chinatown still have hidden trap doors leading to underground hideaways. Opium raids were as common as crack busts today. The Vancouver Police Museum has photographic evidence, such as officers proudly displaying a canoe full of opium canisters and smugglers' vests filled with the narcotic.

The museum also has displays of opium pipes, as well as more modern-day drug paraphernalia — making it easy to see the link between today's Eastside drug culture and the opium dens of the past.

The tour continues to an area just northwest of Chinatown, near the CPR tracks and the harbour, called Gastown. This is seen as the true birthplace of Vancouver, the spot where "Gassy Jack" — a.k.a. Captain John Deighton — established the Globe Saloon in 1867 to quench the thirst of workers at the newly established Stamps lumber mill.

Young and single, the lumbermen were easily tempted to spend their earnings on gambling, alcohol, and sex — and quick to become destitute when a workplace accident left them disabled.

"When people today can see that there is a link between the soup kitchens that catered to the lumberjacks and the soup kitchens of today, it changes their perception of this neighbourhood," says Mathieson.

Indeed, changing perceptions is what the museum's Sins of the City tour is all about. It was established five years ago as an educational program for high school students, but then expanded to include the general public as a way to get people to come to the Downtown Eastside.

The tour takes people into the Carnegie Community Centre — the beautiful library at Hastings and Main built with funds donated by American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1903. It's still a library, but it's main function today is as a drop-in social services centre.

The tour also gives you a glimpse of yesterday's sex trade. It's said that Vancouver received a sudden influx of hundreds of prostitutes after women were displaced by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Eventually, a number of brothels went up along Alexander Street, which is located near the waterfront.

The Eastside used to boast about thirty strip clubs in the '70s, when such places peaked in popularity. Now there are just four, including the famous No. 5 Orange on Main Street — painted all orange, of course — where famous exotic dancers such as Courtney Love plied their trade.

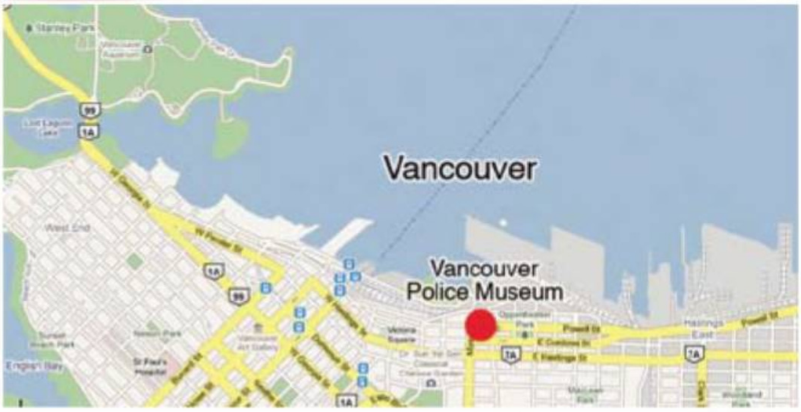
The police museum itself is not to be missed. It contains some unusual, if ghastly, exhibits. For example, check out the preserved body parts in the autopsy room — the very room where Errol Flynn was autopsied when he died in Vancouver in 1959.

The museum also holds the rather unwieldy-looking "Harger Drunkometer" that in 1953 recorded Canada's first impaired driving conviction with "the use of scientific aid."

At seven dollars admission, the police museum is probably one of the least expensive attractions you'll find in Vancouver. It's certainly one of the most memorable. After all, how many museums ask you to "Please, do not touch the skulls"?

Nelle Oosterom is the associate editor of *The Beaver*.

IF YOU GO...



Vancouver Police Museum
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Sins of the City tour: $15 adults, $12 seniors and students (includes museum admission).
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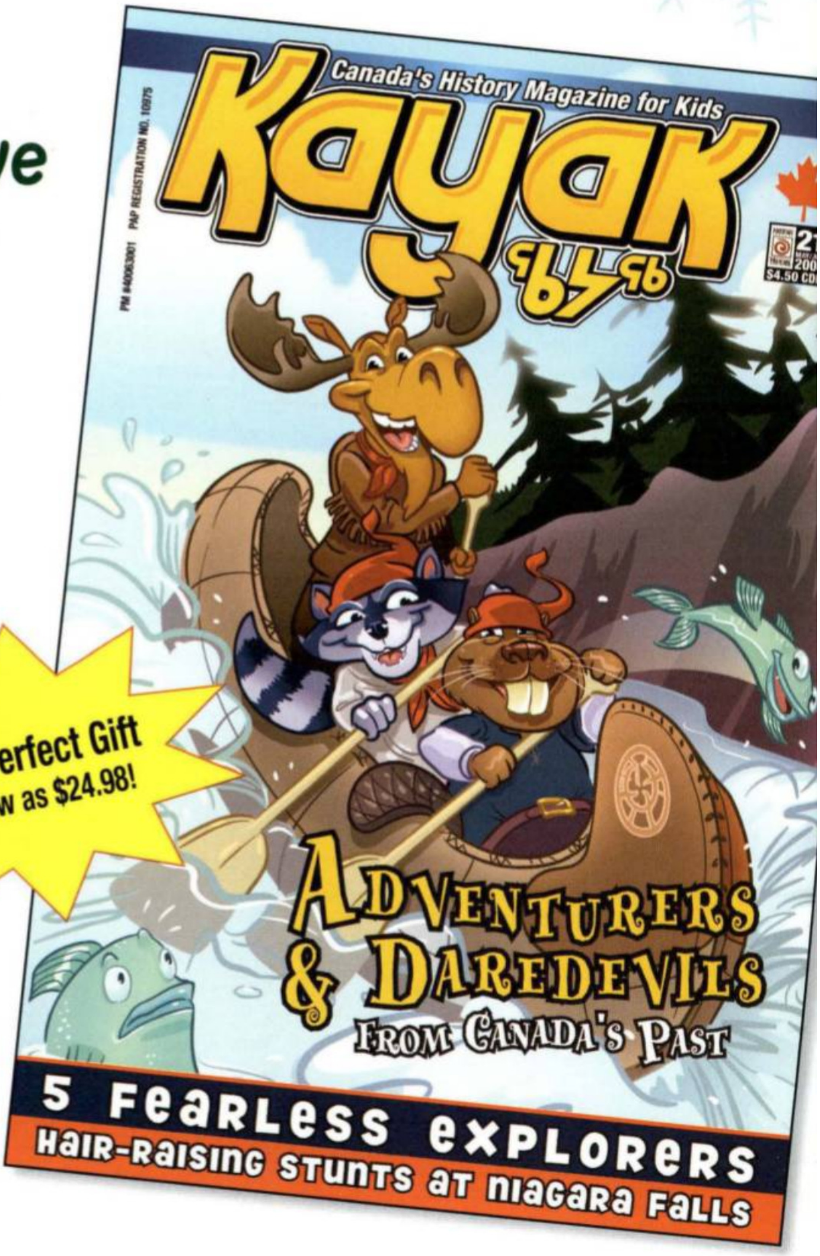
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Deborah Morrison

Dreams derailed

When it comes to Olympic boycotts, it's the athletes who suffer.

When Russia's invasion of Afghanistan prompted Canada to boycott the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, a generation of our country's athletes were deprived of their once-in-a-lifetime chance to make history.

It was the first time Canada had refused to compete at an Olympics since it started fielding a national team in 1908. Even the 1936 Berlin Olympics in Nazi Germany went ahead with Canada's participation.

"I was so focused on training and school, it was a complete shock to me," says gymnast Monica Goermann, who was sixteen years old when Canada pulled out of the Moscow Games. Reporters hounded her for weeks looking for a comment and she struggled to understand what they expected her to say.

"I kept trying to be a good girl, saying I was sorry not to be going but I supported the government's decision."

Despite the boycott, the Canadian Olympic trials went ahead and she, along with her mother, coach Elfriede Goermann, were named to the now hypothetical 1980 Olympic team. Many believe that Monica and her teammates — Elfie Schleigel, Karen Kelsall, and Sherry Hawco — remain the strongest women's gymnastics team Canada has ever fielded. Alternate events were organized, but Goermann quietly admits that nothing really could have served as a satisfying substitute.

Sixty-one other nations joined Canada in the U.S.-led boycott. It was the Cold War era and shunning Moscow was the popular thing to do.

Yet there were a few former Olympians — such as pentathlete Diane-Jones Konihowski and swimmer Dick Pound (who was then president of the Canadian Olympic Committee) — who publicly argued against mixing politics and sport. Their opinions brought them hate mail and death threats for months afterward.

The 1980 boycott was not the first — twenty-eight African nations boycotted Montreal's 1976 Olympics over racism issues. Nor was it the last. At the next Olympics in 1984 in Los Angeles, most Eastern Bloc countries refused to participate. The politicization of the Olympics was getting out of hand.

Monica Goermann today, with daughter Maia.

FAYE UNRAU

Olympic committees recognized that to be independent of politics, they had to become independent of political funding. And so began the Olympics commercial era we know today, where athletes can be professionals and the Games are heavily sponsored by the private sector.

The waning influence of politics could be seen when pressure began building to boycott the 2008 Beijing Games.

Chris Rudge, head of the Canadian Olympic Committee, told the *Toronto Star*, "I could see the government wanting to do that again.... But we don't need [government support] to go to the Games."

Indeed, providing an Olympic opportunity for financial partners to promote their products and reach into new markets like China and South America has created a whole other set of pressures on athletes; athletes who are also professionals must focus on sponsorship and advertising deals in addition to training for competition.

Twenty-nine years later, the difference between the Olympics of today and yesterday are not lost on Goermann, who now runs Monica's Danz Gym in Winnipeg. She trains students for international gymnestrada competitions and has created and choreographed several Cirque du Soleil-style aerial dance shows.

"The Olympics have changed so much," she says.

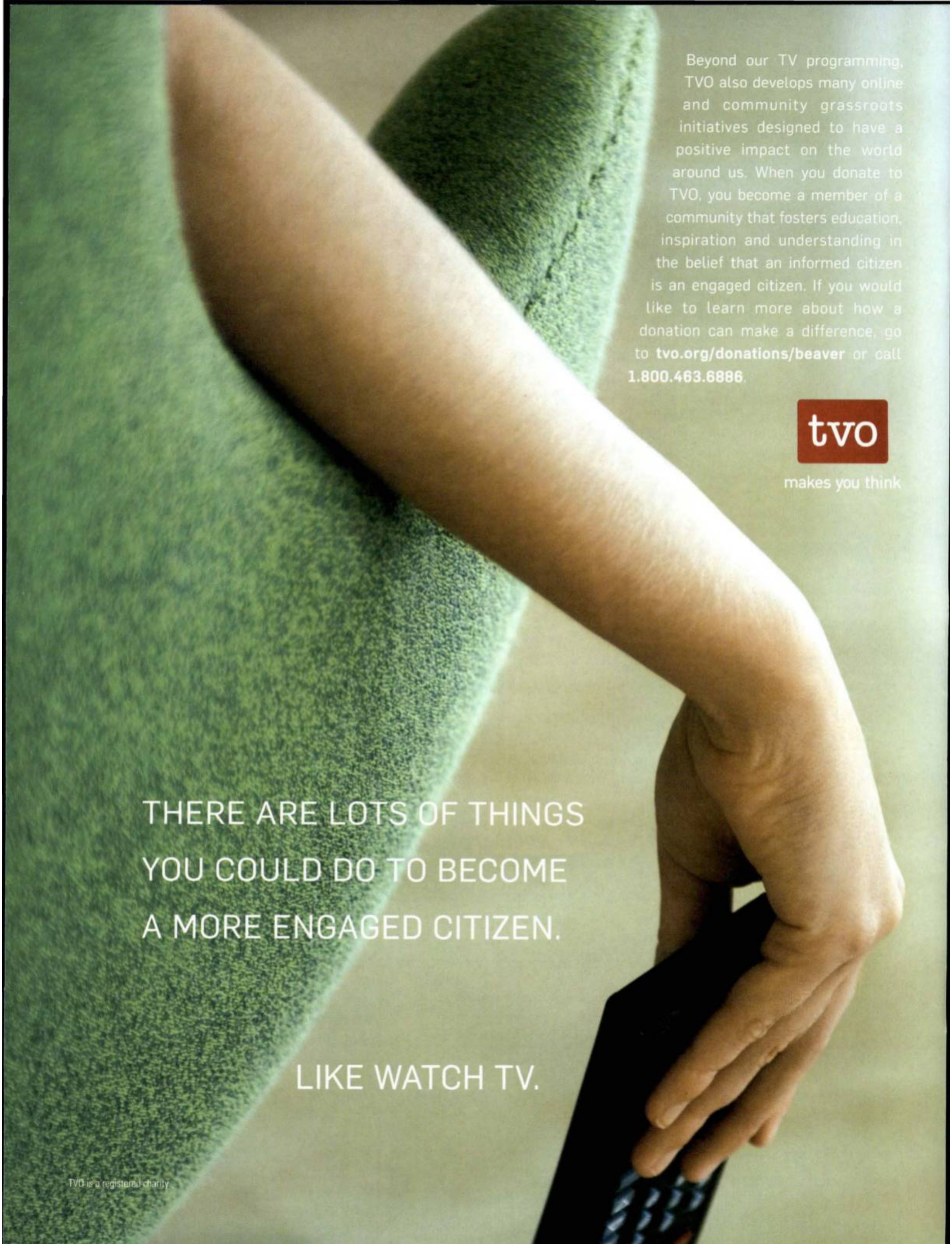
"It's now all about sponsorship and entertainment. It's like a business in and of itself."

Still, she doesn't believe that's a bad thing. Nor has her experience caused her to discourage her daughter Maia's own dreams of possibly going to the Olympics.

"You have to know there will be sacrifices, and that it takes a lot of hard work. But the returns are a thousandfold. Things may block your way, but the journey alone is worth it."

The Olympics will always be about the athletes. For the rest of us, the Games are a chance to celebrate the athletes' journeys and to marvel at the extraordinary skills they've developed along the way.

Deborah Morrison is the president and CEO of Canada's National History Society, and the publisher of *The Beaver*.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The Beaver was founded in 1920 by the Hudson's Bay Company, whose commitment to the History Society and its programs continues today through the ***Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation.***

CANADIAN PRESS

Passionate for Passchendaele

Canadian actor, director honoured with Pierre Berton Award.

Paul Gross was named the 2009 Pierre Berton Award winner at a special event in Toronto to honour Pierre Berton's legacy and to raise funds for the Berton Writer's Retreat at Berton's childhood home in Dawson City, Yukon.

According to one of the judges, the celebrated Canadian actor was selected "for his fascination with storytelling, individual experience, and Canadian symbols. Gross, in his multiple works, has been single-minded in highlighting subjects from the Canadian past and in making them informative and accessible."

Most noteworthy was his recent film project *Passchendaele*, in which he was the lead fundraiser, producer, director, and star. Inspired by stories from his grandfather, Michael Dunn — a survivor of the 1917 battle — Gross's film culminates in the mud of the Belgian countryside, where Canada suffered 16,000 casualties during a nine-kilometre advance; nine Victoria Crosses were awarded for heroic service in the battle. The film tells the story of a wounded survivor of Vimy Ridge who returns to Calgary as a recruiter before heading back to the front at Passchendaele with the 10th Battalion of the Canadian Army.

Some of the profits from *Passchendaele* are to be directed to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Most importantly, the film forms part of a larger campaign to teach about war and military history in Canadian schools.

TEACHING CANADA'S HISTORY
21st Century Teaching
10

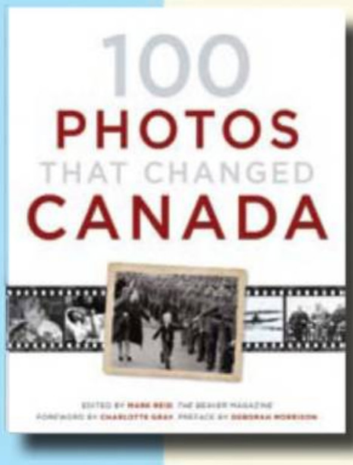
Joel Ralph, Manager, Education and Outreach Programs, holds a copy of *Teaching Canada's History*.

MARK REID

Teaching Canada's History

New magazine focuses on history and the classroom.

On November 4, a new Canadian history magazine debuted on the newsstands. *Teaching Canada's History* is aimed at teachers and concerned parents who are interested in information about how Canadian history is taught in our schools. The History Society hopes it will become an annual edition. Complemented by a fully interactive online digital edition, the special issue includes profiles on innovative and inspiring history teachers, features such as "10 Great Field Trips for Students," and a host of resource links that will be of interest to both history teachers and history buffs. Published in both French and English, the edition sells for $9.95 at newsstands across Canada or can be ordered through Member Services at 1-888-816-0997.



Historic merger

Historica, Dominion Institute join forces to champion history and citizenship in Canada.

Two public history organizations merged on September 8 to form the Historica-Dominion Institute. The new entity will continue to operate many of the popular veterans' Memory Projects initiated by the Dominion Institute, as well as Historica's flagship online project *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, and Encounters with Canada, a youth citizenship study program. The new organization will be headed by author, journalist and Carleton University professor Andrew Cohen, with Marc Chalifoux, former executive director of the Dominion Institute, assuming the role of executive vice-president.

Cohen, who was approached by both organizations in summer 2008 to head the new merged entity, said that the Historica-Dominion Institute will continue to focus on history, with an added emphasis on citizenship and identity.

Surveying and polling on key issues of national interest, such as Canadians' knowledge of their history, will also continue.

"Advocacy is something we will continue to do in a bigger way, but always at the right time and for the right cause," Cohen said.

A key goal will be raising money to sustain and grow the institute's programs. Cohen took particular pride in the recently announced World War II Digital Archives project that will record the stories of as many as 3,000 veterans over the coming year.

"We are creating a repository of memories, which one day I'd hope might also evolve to include recollections of former parliamentarians, prime ministers and Governors General."

The institute will not be continuing its Heritage Fairs program, which offers children in grades four to eight the opportunity to create projects on people or events from Canada's past and present them at school, regional, and national exhibitions.

More than 230,000 students from over 1,000 communities take part each year in the fairs.

The Heritage Fair volunteer network is currently working with the leadership of the former Historica Foundation, as well as Canada's History Society, to explore options for a transition to a new structure for the program.

100 ways to celebrate!

Throughout the month of November, the History Society celebrated the launch of its new book, *100 Photos That Changed Canada*, at scheduled member events in several cities across the country.

With former CBC television personality Don Newman hosting, the events, along with public readings, were held at Chapters and Indigo locations from coast to coast. Copies of the book are available for $44.95 at most retail stores or online via HistorySociety.ca. Go to the website to listen to interviews with contributors, and to see a gallery of images from our national book launch tour.

Honouring excellence

History awards ceremony expanded to recognize achievement of youth, academic research.

Governor General Michaëlle Jean was to present the annual Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History at Rideau Hall on November 20, 2009.

This year's ceremonies marked the first time that students were to be involved in the awards ceremonies, with winners of the Kids' Illustrated History Challenge, the Begbie Contest, and the Great Canadian Questions Challenge being presented award medals by the Governor General.

MCPL JEAN-FRANÇOIS NÉRON

Governor General Michaëlle Jean speaks during the 2008 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.

Also to be recognized at the ceremonies were Pierre Berton Award recipient Paul Gross and the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald Prize winner Ian MacKay.

Gross wrote, directed, and starred in the major motion picture *Passchendaele*.

MacKay was honoured for his new book, *Reasoning Otherwise: Leftists and the People's Enlightenment in Canada, 1890–1920*.

For a closer look at the award-winning student work and a photo gallery of the awards event, visit HistorySociety.ca.

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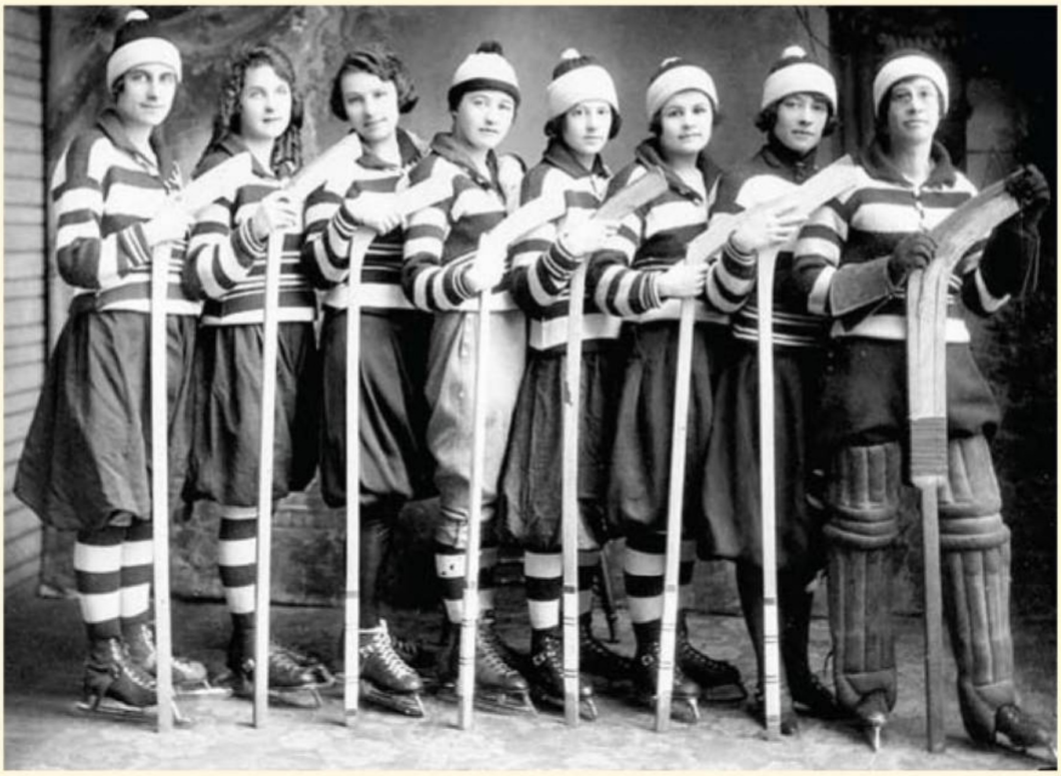
Alex Purvis is the son of Jean Purvis (née Buchanan). He resides in Port Colborne, Ontario.



She shoots, she scores

These eight young lasses were members of the Gore Bay girl's hockey team on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. The squad consisted of (left to right) Jean Buchanan (Purvis), Annie Buchanan, Mae Bryan, Irene Porter, Bernice Kemp, Elva McIntosh, Jean Purvis, and goalie Jean McGregor.

Coach Melvin Lougheed helped guide the team to a winning championship in 1921.

These women were by no means the first female hockey players in Canada. Lady Isabel, daughter of Governor General Lord Stanley, and her teammates were photographed playing a game of shinny back in 1890. The *Montreal Gazette* reported, "All the ladies are particularly fine skaters and played excellently."

Women's hockey had become increasingly popular by the time this photo was taken. The long skirts of earlier years had given way to baggy trousers or bloomers that were elasticized at the knees. The Gore Bay team's uniform was completed with striped woolen leggings, matching sweaters, and toques. However, they had little protective gear and were given only a few hours of ice time per week by the men's club.

Starting in the 1930s there was a decline in women's hockey and momentum was not regained until the 1960s. By the 1990s, women's hockey was again all the rage. Women's hockey made its Olympic debut at Nagano, Japan, in 1998. However, in 1921 the ladies of Manitoulin Island were content just to play the game they loved.

Do you have an old photograph that captures a moment, important or ordinary, in Canada's history? If you would like to submit it for possible publication, have it copied (please don't send priceless originals) and mail it to Album, c/o *The Beaver*, P.O. Box 56060, Portage Place RPO, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0G9. Or email your photo to album@thebeaver.ca. Include a brief description of the photo, including its date and location. If possible, identify people in the photograph and provide further information about the event or situation illustrated. To have your posted submission returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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